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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

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(Hudson Bay)

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*Minister of Health; Minister responsible
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Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
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Inlet)

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*Minister responsible for the Status of
Women; Minister responsible for the
Workers' Safety and Compensation
Commission*

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(Baker Lake)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Good day. Before we proceed, Mr. Kaerner, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): My colleagues, good day, and to the people who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, please feel welcome.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 050 – 6(2):
Family Abuse Intervention Act
Community Consultations**

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hello" to my colleagues. Good day. I also say "hello" to the interpreters and those who are watching the proceedings, as well as the people of Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that the Department of Justice has completed its community consultations on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

Department officials travelled to eight communities to hear from the public and stakeholders. These informative sessions were held in Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Sanirajak, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, and Naujaat.

The community consultations were well attended and we had positive feedback on this important issue. Frontline stakeholders such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, social services, mental health workers, teachers, and Justices of the Peace also provided vital input.

Mr. Speaker, the positive support we received from community members and stakeholders demonstrated that it is more important than ever that the Act fulfil its purpose of preventing and decreasing family abuse.

The Department of Justice thanks everyone who provided their input. The department will now work to review the responses provided to determine how we can improve the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* to ensure it meets the needs of survivors of abuse, victims of

crime, their families, and the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 051 – 6(2):
Tuberculosis Outbreak in
Pangnirtung**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on Health's work on the tuberculosis outbreak in Pangnirtung. Firstly, I would like to thank the municipality and residents of the community for their support and partnership in facing this health challenge.

(interpretation ends) I want to assure the public and my fellow members that the Department of Health is working diligently and is using available tools to support the community. Containing a TB outbreak takes sustained effort spread over many months. Ensuring the community is kept informed of what is happening during this extended period is one of our priorities.

To achieve that, the Department of Health has had regular meetings with the hamlet since September on outbreak management, and community leaders have been informed on how many cases of tuberculosis are active in the community. Going forward, Health has also committed to providing case updates to the public on a three-month interval. This frequency will bring

additional transparency while protecting personal information.

Uqaqtitsijii, there have been questions why Health did not declare an outbreak in the community sooner. Having reviewed the information, I am confident that the right choice was made and an outbreak was declared when it was clear there was risk to the broader community. Prior to the outbreak being declared, despite the number of cases, there was no evidence that the illness had spread beyond a contained cluster of individuals.

Fighting tuberculosis is one of Health's ongoing priorities and work continues to this end. In April 2021 the Government of Nunavut signed a funding agreement extension with Health Canada through the Territorial Health Investment Fund. This two-year agreement will provide approximately \$1.3 million annually to support TB-related efforts by increasing human resource capacity, enhancing data reporting, improving surveillance, adding training components, and research.

Health will continue to work hard with our valued partners to address the TB outbreak in Pangnirtung. I am pleased to note that more recently officials report an improvement in the number of new cases being reported and a corresponding flattening of the curve. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 052 – 6(2): CGS
Community Engagement and
Service Delivery**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Community and Government Services supports the *Katujjiluta* mandate by fostering respectful partnerships and maintaining a high level of engagement with local governments. The department achieves and maintains this degree of engagement with communities to help understand their needs to enhance service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, municipalities own and operate much of the critical infrastructure that is essential to maintaining a high quality of life in Nunavut's communities. My department uses a variety of processes to identify municipal infrastructure priorities, starting with the annual submission of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs). These plans are the primary mechanism for municipal leaders to identify future infrastructure needs and priorities and help identify capital improvements needed in their community.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, recognizing the significance of this tool, Community and Government Services engages with communities to ensure they are aware of timelines as well as current and emerging funding programs. This engagement is done through a combination of conference calls, in-person meetings, and more recently, online seminars.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Development Division supports the development of capacity within communities and provides orientations and educational resources to elected council members and mayors. Over the four years in a municipal term, this training provides them with the tools to serve their community, as they make decisions that will shape the future of their municipalities as a place to live, play, and work. The Community Development section continues to add new modules to the existing training and expand on the resources available and with an aim to increase municipal service standards and fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities of local leaders.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Community and Government Services is a service department, and maintaining a high level of engagement with local governments is essential to building and improving our services to communities. I look forward to working with our local government partners to enhance service to Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 053 – 6(2): Small
Systems Water Treatment**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Pangnirtung.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a new employment training initiative for Nunavummiut that will commence in August 2022 in partnership with the Municipal Training Organization.

Through Family Services' Targeted Labour Market Program, we will offer Small System Water Treatment and Water Treatment Level 1 training as a skills upgrade for water plant operators and backup staff. These programs are based on the water treatment plant upgrades and infrastructure changes taking place in the territory. The training also enables Inuit to be ready to work as water plant operators as existing staff retire.

The training, budgeted at \$749,656, will be offered for up to 195 Nunavummiut in Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Sanikiluaq, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove. Nunavummiut who successfully complete this training will be well prepared for employment within the municipalities, government, or the mining industry. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 054 – 6(2):
Federal Funding for School Air
Handling Units**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and all Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, as we know, COVID-19 is a respiratory virus and good ventilation in

buildings is key for minimizing transmission. Effective air circulation and filtering inside classrooms and school buildings can help to keep students and staff healthy and ensure that we can keep our schools open for students.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Nunavut has recently received \$4.5 million in federal funding to replace the filters and clean the ducts for all air handling units for every school in Nunavut.

>>Applause

With this funding, a total of approximately 133 air handling units and related duct work will be cleaned and balanced and approximately 921 associated filters replaced.

Mr. Speaker, there are a variety of ways that we can minimize the transmission of COVID-19 in our schools. Wearing masks, practising hand hygiene, social distancing, and improving ventilation all play a part in keeping our schools safe for students and staff. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 068 – 6(2):
Promoting the Use of Inuktitut**

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Amittuq and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, during my soliloquy when speaking about our linguistic power and using examples such as the word “qamutik,” I hadn’t expected change as in Iqaluit, as an instantaneous signage change occurred after I publicly verbalized an opinion on the proper spelling of that sign.

I thought perhaps based on that actual change, that if I used good examples for improvements in my riding, for my community constituencies of Sanirajak and Igloolik, then more attention may accrue to them, which they need from the bureaucracy of this government.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, our beautiful language is something we must be proud of, and to have it more visible in our government operations, and particularly for our elders’ sakes. In saying that, Mr. Speaker, it would be nice to see infrastructure be more equitably allocated, as many members voiced previously about this during the Fifth Assembly. I looked for potential benefits, for actual benefits to assist our youth and advocated for our elders previously.

The realization of the plans under the Economic Development and Transportation, as well as CGS would be good for my constituents, and without going into too much detail, perhaps by the Nunavut Housing Corporation as well. It would be good to see both Igloolik and Sanirajak receive such stuff.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, how can the government make Inuktitut be more visible? That will be my question directed to the Minister of Languages when question period comes up today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Members’ Statements.
Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member’s Statement 069 – 6(2): Seal Derby Winners

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge Tuvaat Katimajit, the seal derby committee in Taloyoak who wrapped up their seal derby yesterday.

Winners were announced and winners are as follows. I’m going to mention the top five winners out of 20 winners. First went to Sam Ugyuk, who won \$10,000; second place went to Rebecca Aklah, who won \$5,000; third place went to Tori Tularialik, who won \$4,000; fourth place went to Wayne Aijaut, who won \$3,000; and fifth place went to Roger Maniilaq, who won \$2,000.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all sponsors who I mentioned last week in my member’s statement on this event and thank you, Tuvaat Katimajit, job well done and to the volunteers, you guys did great.

Mr. Speaker, Nattilingmiut Iqalugasuktiit will have a fishing derby on June 10 to 12 in Taloyoak and prizes are as follows:

- First place, \$7,000
- Second place, \$5,000
- Third place, \$3,000
- Fourth place, \$2,000

The final cash prize of \$2,000 is compliments from the local elder committee.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all sponsors, supporters, and volunteers. Job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 070 – 6(2):
Tourism Investments in Pond Inlet**

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I wish happy birthday to James Takaogak Arreak and I say “good day” to the people of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for a recent economic investment in the community of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I asked some questions earlier in our sitting to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation concerning the subject of cruise ships.

On Friday of last week, the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency announced new funding for an initiative in the community. The announcement indicated that:

“The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency is investing \$500,000 towards a two-year project by the hamlet to improve visitor infrastructure in Pond Inlet by widening the Salmon River access road, developing a gravel pathway down the Salmon River, and erecting a gazebo at the existing destination sign.

Pond Inlet is a popular stop for the northern cruise industry, which is expected to recover following COVID-19 restrictions.

Enhancing infrastructure and access to the Salmon River will provide an additional local tourism destination to market to cruise travellers.

This project is expected to create three seasonal jobs during the construction phase and maintain one job.”

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for the community and I pay tribute to the residents of the community who have been involved in the initiative.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents want opportunities for training and they want opportunities to work. As the MLA for Tununiq, I will continue to strongly support investments and initiatives such as the one I have described today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 071 – 6(2): Lodie Ipeelie 2022 Honorary Toonik

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow colleagues, and to those are listening to the proceedings; in particular, to the people of Iqaluit and Niaqunngu.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pride. This spring my constituent, Niaqunngu resident, Lodie Ipeelie was

recognized as the Honorary Toonik of the Year. Lodie Ipeelie has always strived to serve the people of the community and I look upon him at the highest level and I would like to join member in the community to express our pride in this gentleman.

You often hear him over the local CB radio and he is teaching the local people about local areas and the wildlife. I recognize the 123Go! volunteers, Jeremiah Veevee, Robynn Pavia, Adamee Itorcheak, and Mathew and Pits Alainga. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 072 – 6(2): 2022
Rankin Inlet High School
Graduates

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):
Good day, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, my colleague for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet, mentioned that there are 46 who will be graduating from high school. They are:

- Alayah Aliyak
- Tyler Alooq
- Maximus Amaaq
- Ace Autut
- Amy Brown
- Emily Brown
- Connor Camphaug
- David Chukwunonso
- Gholum Darehshoripour
- Amber Dion
- Qaumak Eccles
- Navvaq Friesen
- Perpetue Ikuutaq

- Malla Itinuar
- Morgan Kakuktinniq
- Jessica Kanayok
- Eden Kolola-Sammurtok
- Mapsalak Komaksiutiksak (Mapsy)
- Kirk Kabluitok
- Jacob Kusugak, my grandson
- Luke Kusugak, my nephew
- Kuutsiq Osmond
- Joy Labatique
- Chris Mukpah
- Emily Morey
- Tyler Naukatsik
- Sharona Nilaulak
- Andrew Owljoot
- Christine Palluq
- Trinity Papak
- Wayne Pilakapsi
- Shakiera Pudlat
- Madeline Sammurtok
- Eathan Sateana
- Cassandra Saumik
- Kennedy Sigurdson
- Logan Siksik
- Josiah Simik
- Adam Taipana
- Adina Tanuyak
- Donna Tatty
- Brady Tucktoo
- Andre Ugjuk
- Jennie Uquqtuq
- Allaituq Wiseman
- Troy Woodford

It was just yesterday they were just little children who just completed their schooling. Nunavummiut, I encourage you to complete your schooling and I'm really proud of my graduates in Rankin Inlet and I congratulate and acknowledge the parents who woke them up to attend school. Please join me, my colleagues, in expressing our pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations to the graduates. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 073 – 6(2):
Recent Events in Baker Lake**

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to say my appreciation of our colleague, Minister John Main who visited our community just last month, as he was able to arrive at Baker Lake. While he was there, on Anataq Lake, we toured the infrastructure buildings there and also met with the operational staff.

Also, we were able to meet with the local hamlet council members, and it was quite rambunctious and great comments were made over issues, as well as questions raised with the minister by the hamlet councillors. Later on, during the evening we also had a more memorable event, at least to me personally.

The group in Baker Lake, the Qilautimiut group as they are called are composed of elders aged 65 and over, with elders acting as members of the committee and being involved in the committee dealing with the local drum history and traditional methods. It is for people aged up to 64 to participate, and they follow our traditional Inuit knowledge foundations, and it was good to listen to their concerns, and questions they asked of our colleague, and he also responded correspondingly.

It is obviously that they also enjoyed meeting with our colleague, Mr. John Main. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 074 – 6(2):
Recent Visit to Grise Fiord**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I grew up knowing the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. They would arrive with great pomp and were quite intimidating to us, the younger generation and we called them "the people of big hellos" while living up in Grise Fiord.

It would be quite intimidating whenever the party arrived and we would wonder what purpose their visitation was for, or why the government came to town, however, during my own lifetime, I was extremely gratified and honoured this Friday, when our Premier came along to return to his old hometown, where he received a hero's welcome as everyone knew him when he came up to Grise Fiord, so I first wish to thank him for coming along on Friday.

The residents of Grise Fiord were overjoyed to have the visitation and they voiced their pride as many of the older residents recall his youth and when he was growing up in Grise Fiord, fondly recalling his days of yore and it came true during our visit but one thing that showed is how much our lives have changed in this lifetime.

We used to have only "people of the big hellos" as faces of our governments, but now a young man who grew up in Grise Fiord is now the Premier of our territory,

so I am very proud of his accomplishment and I wish to again thank him for having been able to come up to Grise Fiord, and our colleague as well who was able to go to Grise Fiord for the first time and he was also warmly welcomed. Joanasie came to view the water infrastructure issues we face as it remains a local concern and with the issue still being under review by our government.

The department provides irreplaceable assistance to our communities, and I am very glad that they are dealing with this water crisis in our community, as he was able to see the work firsthand and he will be able to recall it. I urge all ministers to visit the communities to be able to understand the issues they face, and I encourage members to submit invitations so ministers can make time to attend.

Since we grew up in our communities, it was usually people from the outside who came to exert control over our daily lives, but today, we the residents are also the ones who are in control. With that in mind, I sometimes am amazed at our progress, and I also take pride in other people reaching their goals, especially our Premier, who grew from a young boy to young manhood up in the High Arctic and for returning home for even a weekend, so I thank you all for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

**Member's Statement 075 – 6(2): 2022
High School Graduates of Igloolik**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make some comments that will apply for

tomorrow, so first of all, to every one of my fellow residents of Igloolik, I wish you all a very good day, and to all of my colleagues here today.

Tomorrow, in Igloolik, local students will be graduating to higher classes next year, and once students graduate, they will have to start on their own decision-making challenges. I would like to state the names of the graduates of grade 12 who are:

- Thomas Alorut
- Rhonda-Sue Qamaniq
- Shaneil Qamaniq
- Stacy Qamukaq
- Tony Tapardjuk
- Caylan Ulayuruluk
- Hunter Ungalaq
- Clarence Uyarak

These individuals will be graduating from grade 12 and they will no doubt be very successful if they are focused on their futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Pangnirtung. Ms. Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 076 – 6(2): 2022
High School Graduates of
Pangnirtung**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too wish to voice my pride, and I rise today to express our congratulations to the 13 students from Pangnirtung who will graduate on June 24 at the Atagoyuk School. They are:

- Joyce Akulukjuk
- Alan Alivaktuk

- Eliyah Qappik
- Stacey Qappik
- Rene Kunilusie-Goupil
- Jessie Kunilusie
- Grace Metuq
- Allan Nakashuk
- Laura Nakashuk
- Tina Evic
- Tia Kullualik
- Michael Alivaktuk
- Andrea Dialla

These students will be holding their graduation ceremony on June 24. I ask my colleagues in this House to join me in congratulating them. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Congratulations to your graduates. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 077 – 6(2): 2022
High School Graduates of Arviat**

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To Arviat, I say “good day” to you.

I also have numerous students who will also be graduating in Arviat, and as colleagues also spoke about their local graduates, and I did not want to be latest or last. To the students graduating in Arviat from grade 12, there are 44 graduates, but a word of advice to the graduates.

Life and learning doesn't end when you graduate from grade 12, rather, it just opens more doors and opportunities to either further your education or to start your career but not to rest on your

laurels, and to launch yourself using grade 12 as a springboard.

I will say the names of the 44 graduates:

- Arthur Ahmak
- Jacqueline Ahmak
- Kerri Ahmak
- Sonny James Ahmak
- Davey-Anthony Akat
- DeeJay Akatsiak
- Fabian Akatsiak
- Leonie Alikut
- Alexander Angalik
- Neevee Angalik
- Cathy Arnayuinak
- Cidney Aulatjut
- Kadin Copland Pisuktie
- Daniel Curley
- Mikk Evaloakjuk
- Reanne Gibbons
- Solomon Gibbons
- Leora Ikakhik
- Gila Illungiyok
- David Isluanik
- Daphne Ittinuar
- Cayla Kablutsiak
- Madison Kadjuk
- Emily Kaludjak
- Paris Kaludjak
- Daniel Kublu
- Meg Malla
- Michael Malla
- Selma Mukyungnik
- Katasie Nibgoarsi
- Allison Nipisar
- Whitney Okatsiak
- William Okatsiak
- Henry Pingushat
- Eric Jr. Qiyuaryuk
- Zachary Sewoee
- Tumelo Sinnisiak
- Chasity St. John
- Katy Suluk

- Peter Suwaksiork
- Aaron Tassiuk
- Ted Thompson
- Joshua Tugak
- Bryan Voisey

I congratulate all of the students and their parents. I know their parents are very happy too. Everybody in Arviat, have a good day too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Congratulations to your 44 graduates. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 099 – 6(2): Staff Housing Program and Initiatives

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to answer a question I took as notice on June 3, 2022 from the Member of Iqaluit-Sinaa, Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the member that my senior officials and I recognize the negative impact the critical housing shortage has on all Nunavummiut, including Government of Nunavut employees. The Department of Human Resources currently does not collect or publish the housing status of its workplace. My officials and I are having internal discussions now to determine the privacy concerns and feasibility of collecting and publishing

such data. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Return to Oral Question 065 – 6(2): Mandatory Wearing of Masks

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on May 31, 2022. The Member for Arviat South requested information on mandatory masking in health facilities, Government of Nunavut (GN) offices, and schools since the public health emergency has been lifted.

Health Facilities

With the lifting of the public health emergency on April 11, masks were no longer mandatory in public spaces. However, to ensure the protection of our health system, masks will continue to be mandatory in health facilities in Nunavut, as per the current Communicable Disease Order issued by the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO). Under the *Public Health Act*, the CPHO has the authority to issue a Communicable Disease Order if there are grounds to believe that a communicable disease exists, the disease presents a risk to public health, and the order is necessary to prevent, eliminate, remedy, or mitigate the risk to public health. The current Communicable Disease Order is in place until the end of June 2022, at which time the CPHO will reassess its need.

It is also important to note the recent increases in respiratory infections across

the territory. Continuing to mandate masks to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in health facilities will also help reduce the transmission of respiratory infections.

GN Offices

The GN has an obligation under the *Nunavut Safety Act* to protect the health of its employees. As an employer, the GN is required to take all reasonable precautions to safeguard the health and safety of employees. These precautions include the development of policies and procedures, implementing training, and the use of personal protective equipment. Despite the public health emergency being lifted on April 11, the GN's obligations under the *Nunavut Safety Act* do not change. As such, while other safety measures were removed, such as the sign-in/sign-out protocols to facilitate contract tracing, masking remains mandatory within GN workplaces to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and ensure a safe working environment for all GN employees.

Schools

Under the *Education Act*, the school principal has the authority and responsibility for the safety of students, staff, and others on school premises. The Department of Education followed the CPHO's recommendation to continue to wear masks indoors and in shared spaces by mandating masks in schools and on school buses. As needed, Education will re-evaluate this requirement in collaboration with the CPHO.

Continuing to mandate masks in health facilities, GN offices, and schools helps preserve critical industries and protect

those most at risk. The use of masks is one tool in a multifaceted approach to reduce the risks posed by COVID-19. Vaccination, the availability of self-testing options, and what we have learned over the past two years, including the effectiveness of self-isolation, all play a role in keeping Nunavummiut safe. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Return to Oral Question 083 – 6(2): Mine Safety

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for recognizing me. Even though the member who asked the question is not here, I will provide a response.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement answers I provided on June 2 following the question from the Member of Kugluktuk, Bobby Anavilok.

Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission does not directly provide health and safety training for employers but provides funding and support to organizations that offer workplace safety training and certification. The commission provides certification for mine supervisors and develops educational resources and guidance for employers to meet their legislated requirements.

Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission met with the

Mine Occupational Health and Safety Legislation Committee on June 2 and 3, 2022 to modernize mining legislation to ensure Acts and regulations are current and meet industry standards.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions.
Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Return to Oral Question 075 – 6(2):
Housing Construction Tender
Process**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on June 1, 2022. The Member for Netsilik asked me to clarify who makes the final decision about whether or not a housing tender should be cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, contract management is handled at the departmental level or, in this case, the corporation level under the oversight and accountability of the president/chief executive officer. It is the president/chief executive officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation who signs the major capital construction contracts and would be responsible for issuing the awarding of tenders and/or cancelling of any tenders.

Cancellation of tenders is not a common undertaking, but certainly in the past two years due to extremely high bid prices and budget shortfalls, cancellation of some contracts was a reality. Elected officials, such as ministers, or appointed Nunavut Housing Corporation board members do not get involved in the day-to-day aspects of contract management.

Having said that, the president/chief executive officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation would work with a team of professionals within the corporation as well as Nunavut Housing Corporation legal counsel in exploring options and strategies in relation to its contracting authority. In the recent example over the last few months, the Nunavut Housing Corporation contemplated options around the cancellation of multiple tenders in the range of \$70 million. The president/chief executive officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation would absolutely consult both the board and the minister. A variety of options were discussed among the executive team members, the minister, and the board of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Ultimately a decision was made to cancel all the tenders due to the extremely high cost per square foot of bids. Nunavut will not be able to achieve 1,000 housing units over the next four years if the only option for cost is at \$1,000 per square foot. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's board as well as myself as the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation supported the recommendation and ultimate decision of the corporation to proceed with the cancellation of the tenders for 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Returns to Oral Questions.
Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Return to Oral Question 092 – 6(2):
Vacant Staff Housing Units**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to supplement an answer that I provided on June 2, 2022 following a question from the Member of Iqaluit-Tasiluk, George Hickes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the member that as of today, the Department of Human Resources has 81 staff housing units ready for occupancy. All 81 have been allocated. An additional 41 units are in major renovations or require repairs. In the last six months, 219 of 324 active competitions were completed and assigned staff housing. I can confirm that 100 Government of Nunavut employees are on the wait-list for staff housing in Iqaluit, 55 are on the wait-list in the Kivalliq region, 27 in Kitikmeot, and 28 in the Qikiqtaaluk region, for a total of 210 employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Joanasie.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of South Baffin. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine in my home community of Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, last week I rose in this House and did a statement about this young, emerging leader in the recreation sector. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Emerging Leader Award recipient, Joanne Weedmark, is in the House, so I would like to welcome her.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) I am very proud of you and I am happy that you work on recreation activities.

(interpretation ends) I would also like to recognize Dawn Currie, who is the Executive Director of Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut and submitted the nomination for Ms. Weedmark's award. Thank you both and welcome. *Tunngasugitti*.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Oral Questions. Just a note; absent from the House today is Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak and the Member for Kugluktuk.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerker.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 121 – 6(2): Promoting the Use of Inuktitut

Mr. Kaernerker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was making my member's statement I was saying that our language should be promoted more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Languages.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated, it was very good to see that the name of the building at Iqaluit's Four Corners has finally been corrected; correctly rendered as *qamutiik* instead of *qamutiq*. It is important that we take pride in our language and ensure that it is properly displayed.

Mr. Speaker, section 3(1) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, requires that businesses and organizations display their signs in the Inuit language with the same prominence as English and French.

However, regrettably there is nothing in the legislation which requires that the Inuit language, like on those signs, be appropriately... Like for example, in the Legislative Assembly, it's translated nicely, like my *qamutiik* and *qamutiq* example.

Can the Minister of Languages indicate whether any consideration has been given to amending the legislation to ensure that only properly standardized Inuit language terms are used in stores and Co-op signage. To use the "Qamutiq" sign as an example, does the Minister of Languages want to start work in that direction to ensure that signage is standardized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question.

First of all, I would like to inform the member that before any signage or promotional items are brought out, usually we have to make sure that they are properly written if they are going to be in public places. If they are spelled incorrectly, you can make complaints to the commissioner of languages.

With the signage written in Inuktitut, English and French, they have to be using standardized language terms, but

it's not the case all of the time. As we all know, we have seen the word "Qamutiq" written like that for many years, and that is why it seems like we are not following our laws. At times it is quite hard to make changes, but we have to work harder and I can say that 2.0 will probably have an impact and ensure that we follow the proper terms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that there is going to be further work done on the standardization of Inuktitut. In saying that, it takes a lot of effort and many different approaches to preserve, protect, and promote language that is at risk of disappearing, especially with the younger age groups.

The government departments should work harder and I did bring that up when an elder came to me and stated that when she calls a government department, the first contact person only speaks English.

Saying that, Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether any suggestions are currently being considered to amend the Nunavut *Official Languages Act* or the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to further promote and protect the use of the Inuit language government, public and private sectors, for example, the Northern Store, under 3.1 of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, do you currently use that to promote and preserve Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I also thank my colleague for that question. We have different sections that apply to the use of languages. As an example, we are currently teaching terminology in daycares, in the school system, in the NTEP program about the proper usage and promotion of the Inuktitut language. I can say that in the NTEP program, they take Inuktitut classes initially during their first year entirely in Inuktitut.

Our Inuktitut language can become strengthened if it is used as a language of instruction in the schools, and in operations, and further, in workplaces that require Inuktitut language interaction services, we are aware of the needs and have provided a process to promote the usage of Inuktitut.

I also announced previously that a new dialectal program for Netsilik dialect is collecting words and proper grammatical usages of old words to be preserved in a document called in English (interpretation ends) a dictionary (interpretation) for use in the region, and likewise, the department of Culture and Heritage will also be able to pursue that strategy as well, to use it for training purposes and so on.

I have no doubts that we all wish to retain the Inuktitut language, but yes, if we wish to retain its strength and make it visible, it has to start firstly from us and outwards to our children and grandchildren, if we want to retain our linguistic strength. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud you but I can't hear you.

Indeed, I am very proud of this type of initiative, both the preservation efforts as well as the promotion of the different dialects of Inuktitut which are all about saving our language. Another body I wish to recognize is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who are our partners in protecting our Inuit language, as they are working to try and get Inuktitut recognized nation-wide as a unique aboriginal language here in Canada, and I wanted to voice my agreement on NTI for their initiatives.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has implemented the Inuktitut language incentive bonus to encourage the use of Inuktitut by government employees and those incentive bonuses are awarded at the level of competency of the employee.

Can the minister describe what new incentives are being considered to further promote the use of the Inuit language across the territory? For example, if we look at getting nurses and teachers to be interested in learning the Inuktitut language, what new incentives has your department created to promote and preserve the language? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. First of all, I would like to say that Inuktitut proficiency is a factor in receiving that

bonus. The Inuit Language Authority is currently looking at the scales of the Inuit language incentive bonus.

Any government employee that would like to be tested can contact the Inuit Language Authority and indicate what level they might be at. Employees' Inuit language skills are tested to determine how much bonus they will receive. If they are at the low end of the scale, the annual bonus will be \$1,500. If they are able to read and write syllabics but still require further training in the Inuit language, they will be paid \$2,500 annually. If they are proficient in Inuktitut, the annual bonus is \$5,000. Those are the different levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Question 122 – 6(2): Netsilik
Language Programs**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Languages and they concern the subject of Netsilik Language Programs.

Mr. Speaker, I was very, very pleased to hear her minister's statement yesterday, which outlined a number of programs and initiatives to help strengthen and preserve the Netsilik dialect.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I was very, very happy to hear of the Inuktit Language Promotion and Preservation project by the Ikajuqtigiit Society. The project is producing resources, programs, and training that support the preservation and revitalization of the dialect.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify when these resources, programs, and training will be ready for delivery? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for his question. In regard to the promotion of the Netsilik dialect, you can request a copy of the recorded materials from the Department of Culture and Heritage. The programs and training as well as the keyboard layout will be made available online. You can request English copies to be translated into Inuktitut. You can utilize that site. Maybe we are not promoting it enough, but they are already available online. We can do promotional work on it so the information will be available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Bilingual Education Society worked with elders on the creation of an Inuktit storybook, written in the Netsilik dialect.

The minister indicated yesterday in her statement that copies have been distributed to educational facilities. For clarification, can the minister clarify how members of the general public can access this important resource? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. As I indicated yesterday, the storybook was made available and there are 800 copies that have been distributed to educational facilities. The schools fundraise by selling copies. You can have access to one, but if you would like further information, I can then tell you where you can buy copies of the Inuktitut storybook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Quassa. Mr. Speaker, a program undertaken by the Natilik Heritage Society included a series of public activities to help support language preservation in your community of Gjoa Haven. They included cultural programming, translated cultural education materials, a pilot program to deliver cultural programming in Inuktitut, and an Inuktitut mentorship program. Mr. Speaker, I think these are wonderful programs and initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm if her department is considering working with the society to develop and deliver similar programs in other Kitikmeot communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Languages, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. I would like to supplement his first question regarding the availability of materials online. Anyone can order it online from (interpretation ends) the Bilingual

Language Society. (interpretation) Any of those books can be ordered.

For his second question, if organizations need help or if they would like to work in partnership, they are welcome to ask the Department of Culture and Heritage about how they can be assisted, not only through financial means, but maybe they can be directed to other organizations that can further support them. We do want to be working together in partnership. If local organizations request support, even if they're in the smaller communities, they can receive support from the Department of Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 123 – 6(2): Oversight at Embassy West Facility in Ottawa

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of constituents continue to raise concerns regarding the type of care and services being provided to our elders at the Embassy West facility in Ottawa.

Can the minister provide an update on what oversight is currently in place to ensure that Nunavut elders are being cared for in a safe and culturally appropriate manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. We still have elders staying in facilities in Ottawa who require a level of service we cannot provide currently. There are no existing facilities in Nunavut that meet the legal requirements for that level of care. It could be the number of beds or required level of care, but this follows this (interpretation ends) level of care (interpretation) and the lack of this service availability in Nunavut.

We are trying to improve that situation here both with plans for construction in Rankin Inlet, to use the elder's hospice that is currently under renovation but it depends on the level of care which exists at the Embassy West seniors centre and it is provided via a contract currently and as a government, we do not have operational control over that facility, but we work with the facility to try to ensure the care is culturally appropriate.

We continue to work with them to monitor the situation to determine if the services are appropriate and if the care provision requires improvements, so in meeting regularly, and through inspections, we are meeting our own institutional requirements and we deal with issues as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that an Ontario-based organization, the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority, conducted an investigation into the concerns and complaints regarding the care of elders at the Embassy West facility. That

organization did not find any issues on non-compliance regarding the level of care and services.

Can the minister explain why they did not contract someone from Nunavut to conduct an investigation at the Embassy West facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To the member's question, it's quite simple: it's not our jurisdiction. If that was a facility in Nunavut, it's my understanding that we would have jurisdiction, but it's located outside of Nunavut and there is a regulatory body which has been established by statute, so they have the jurisdiction. As the member noted, the investigation was concluded.

I should add that we value the relationship that we have with Embassy West very highly. They provide a high quality of care. I have seen the facility myself. I have spoken with elders currently at the facility. I realize that it's not ideal. It's not in the territory, but the facility and their staff are responsive to our concerns as the Department of Health and we do value the service that they provide because at the end of the day, we don't have a replacement for that service currently. As such, I just look forward to our continued relationship with the operators of that facility, who are providing high-quality care for our Nunavut elders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confident that the minister appreciates that families are concerned for the well-being and welfare of their family member so far away from home.

One issue that has been brought to my attention is regarding access to country food. We have heard that elders at Embassy West are not permitted to eat country food and it gets thrown away. If that happened in the north, we would be charged for wasting it.

Can the minister clarify whether the investigation conducted by the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority addressed this issue and, if not, would he commit to investigating the concern about the access to country food at Embassy West? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the country food, we understand that's something that, of course, Nunavut elders want and crave for and as a department, we are fully supportive of facilities, whether they are outside of Nunavut or inside Nunavut, meeting the needs of the elders.

I'm not sure where the allegation around country food being thrown away came from. I would need more details on that. Again, as I mentioned, we do value the relationship. We value the service that the organization is providing and as such, we have to be sensitive in terms of making allegations against organizations such as Embassy West that features country food on the menu every day. Depending on the day, choices include

iqalukpik, nattiminiq, tuktu, maktaaq, walrus, I'm not sure if that's *igunaq* or cooked walrus, and also *uningmak*.

I should add that Health is currently working with an Ottawa-based organization to have cultural counselling and activities provided onsite at Embassy West five days a week. I can't announce the details around that just quite yet, but I mention it because it is an example of us as a department recognizing that the Nunavut elders at Embassy West have needs specifically around culture and language, and we are working hard and my staff are working hard to meet those needs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 124 – 6(2): Homes for Elders

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my constituents in Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have spoken of the need for increasing elder care options in their communities. The Minister of Health has discussed health care requirements and related services.

However, some of our elders don't need health care; they need a safe, accessible and comfortable place to live as they age and become less mobile.

Can the minister provide an update on how many Nunavut communities have housing units that are dedicated to elder use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The housing corporation does not run elder's facilities. Most communities have elder accessible units that have ramps. Most communities now have this kind of set-up, where the communities themselves identify what kind of house style they want, and then they select that option. I, as minister, cannot do this for communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, some elders are quite capable. They could stay in their community if they had better housing dedicated to elders. The minister has been to Naujaat, and he mentioned the ramps for wheelchair access. There are none of those ramps in Naujaat. It would be good as well if elders could be in facilities that are just one storey, not two-storey. Can the minister commit to specify what specific funding is dedicated to elder housing?

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. As the housing corporation, we are not the department to deal with

those issues. The Department of Health has support in this area for those who require support in their homes that provide home care. Whether they require rails, or access to the bathtub in the bathroom, that is not something that we are responsible for as the NHC. We work with the LHOs in communities to ask the communities' housing associations decide the housing mix for communities.

Elders, youth they know not to put elders in places with a lot of stairs. There are places where elders are not all the same as they run independently. We know that not elders will be going to elders home. What kind of homes would be more adequate for long term homes for elders is something we're looking at, working with various departments in the government and also there will be a person dedicated to the better care of elders. I'm sure we will be considering this, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our elders deserve having a suitable place to live, having dedicated elder housing in all of our communities would enable our elders to stay at home for as long as possible. Will the minister commit to working with Nunavut hamlets to identify opportunities to renovate or create dedicate elder's home units in all of our Nunavut communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NHC is not responsible for elders. It is the responsibility of the Department of Health and we will work with them, no doubt, regarding this issue. We are not here to say “this facility is going to become an elder’s facility,” it’s not our responsibility, but we will continue to provide any means of support under our government mandate, with elder’s being priority, to keep them in Nunavut.

All the departments will continue to work toward this and seek how would be the best approach. Perhaps we would need to look at some facilities to be renovated. If it’s for elders, through these means as government. This is an area where we will continue to provide support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 125 – 6(2): Electrical Infrastructure and Community Lighting

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. As the minister is aware, Sanikiluaq’s unique geography and locations means that the community does not experiences 24 hour day light, and it does not experience 24 hour darkness.

During the recent sitting of the legislative assembly, members approved capital funding for the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s light-emitting diode, better known as LED, street lighting

project. Can the minister confirm that Sanikiluaq is on track to receive the new light-emitting diode street lights during the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Looking at the schedule, yes, Sanikiluaq is on schedule for 2023-24 light-emitting diode replacement, also known as LED. I apologize to the interpreters. Yes, 2023-24, Sanikiluaq is expecting to have their light-emitting diodes replaced.

Just for the member’s benefit, on the list the number is 53 diodes that will be replaced in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the update, minister. I am looking forward to welcoming the minister to Sanikiluaq, in the not too distant future. If the minister’s flight lands in the evening hours, he will see first-hand that the community lacks adequate lighting on the road from the airport to the centre of the community.

I believe that this poses a safety risk, and there are other areas of the community that lack appropriate lighting. Can the minister confirm the process by which the community can formally request the Qulliq Energy Corporation to install new street lights and poles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation strives to work with all hamlets and do as what the hamlet requests. They can put in a formal request to the Qulliq Energy Corporation as to where they would like additional lighting. This can now be done in a quick and easy manner.

The corporation tries to save money and utilize the sealift times to cut down on freight costs. If the hamlet is going through that route, we request advance notice. I encourage the member to speak to his hamlet council and help them fill out a formal request and submit it to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and map out where they would like the light emitting diodes to be installed for better illumination of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report indicates that it "...completed electrical distribution surveys in Sanikiluaq and Resolute Bay to collect accurate data on QEC's infrastructure, and to develop plans to update the distribution systems in these communities. Electrical distribution surveys are critical components to future power plant rebuild projects."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the Qulliq Energy Corporation's current

plans for electrical distribution system upgrades in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation monitors how much output is being generated at the power plants. If upgrades are needed, they put that into the plan and submit the funding for it. They work with the hamlets if they need to as well to try to get that in motion and help out the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Before I go on to the next member, I just ask members, when asking questions to ministers, please do not use terms such as "you," saying instead the words "minister" or "will the minister."

Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 126 – 6(2): Municipal Governance

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of municipal governance.

As the minister is aware, the Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization recently passed a formal motion concerning the proceedings and actions of the municipal council in respect to the Mary River project.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that there is a dispute between council members on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that this is a sensitive subject, but it is important that the public have a clear understanding of the situation.

As the minister is aware, the territorial *Hamlets Act* provides for the authorities and powers of municipal councils.

Can the minister clarify what powers councils have to discipline their own members in cases where they believe that someone has overstepped their authority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, hamlet councillors are accountable under the *Hamlets Act* and, if there are any concerns around hamlet council, if their conduct or they are not within their authority, they can discipline their own members within council. That is through the *Hamlets Act*, if they feel that there is justification to do so. That is how it is as I understand it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Joanasié. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I believe that elected councils should be running their own affairs to the greatest extent possible.

As the minister is aware, section 191.1 of the territorial *Hamlets Act* provides the minister with the authority to “place the affairs of a municipal corporation under supervision” under certain circumstances. Can the minister clarify the circumstances under which he would consider doing so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much agree with the member in that municipal affairs are municipal affairs, and as minister, I should not interfere on any matters that the council decides on.

With that, I would like to state the authority that a minister can be asked to supervise a municipal corporation in instances where there is either financial gross misconduct and/or when the hamlet is not performing their duties as required by the *Hamlets Act*. To the best of my knowledge, this provision is barely used. It is infrequently used. I have no intention of using this provision under the Act.

I would like to state that as CGS minister, I am committed and the goal is to support the hamlets in making their decisions to the best of their abilities within their rights. If they have challenges in addressing their issues, we will work with them and not necessarily jump to enforcing the Act that my colleague brought that provision about bringing the minister’s supervision of a municipal corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Joanasié. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to the Legislative Assembly, I was provided with a very detailed orientation program concerning the authority of this institution and the role of its members. I thank your office for the good work.

Can the minister describe how his department works with municipal corporations to provide governance training and orientation to newly elected members of municipal councils? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I, too, recall getting the orientation when I first was elected and those were very useful sessions.

Mr. Speaker, my department does provide orientation sessions for newly elected municipal council members to ensure that they understand clearly what their roles and responsibilities are. This also includes municipal staff. We work with the Municipal Training Organization on delivering this training regularly.

I note that Mittimatalik, they had sessions held in February 2020 during COVID time, but I understand that there is another upcoming session that will be provided. Other hamlet or municipal councillors can request to have these orientations through requests, so I would

encourage hamlet councils to do that as necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 127 – 6(2): Federal Funding for School Air Handling Units

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of Education on the minister’s statement, federal funding for school air handling units, and I’ll quote from it.

“Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Nunavut has recently received \$4.5 million in federal funding to replace the filters and clean the ducts for all air handling units for every school in Nunavut.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister, COVID has been here approximately two years, but there have been respiratory disease in Nunavut for as far back as we have been here, probably, and the flu has always been around. How often are the filters replaced and the ducts cleaned in schools in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. In terms of our air handling units, these are a part of our lifecycle renewals and we do look for funds and seek appropriate funds through our lifecycle budget to go as we can to

address replacing and cleaning those air handling units.

Part of our budget every year with maintenance costs is to ensure that we're doing them and we can't do them all at once, as we have this allocated funding here from the federal government which will allow us to do that. However, with the funds that we do look and seek out every year, we can't do them all at once, but I do know that they are worked on as needed. In terms of how often, I can get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There should be a time schedule for making sure that the air in our schools is safe for the children that go there every day. I'm looking forward to the information that the minister provides us with how often that the air handling units are cleaned and the filters replaced.

On to the same subject, when was the last time the three schools in Arviat had their filters replaced and their ducts cleaned out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. For the particular details of that question, I would like to take it as notice. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 128 – 6(2): Airport Infrastructure

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you as we are able to talk and be listened to by our constituents and we stand and rise on their behalf and representing all of them, and that's the way it should be.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question (interpretation ends) to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern the issue of airport infrastructure in my constituency of Uqqummiut.

(interpretation) As usual, I rise to express concerns on this issue. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the first issue that I wish to raise concerns the accessibility of the airport terminal buildings in both communities.

I have received concerns that the airport terminal buildings in both Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq would benefit from upgrades to make it easier for the disabled, including people who use wheelchairs, to access the buildings throughout the year.

(interpretation) Let me explain this a little more in Inuktitut, before I go on to my question. There are people who can't walk, and have to rely on wheelchairs, people with disabilities. Whenever they arrive in the community, in the two constituencies that I represent, there is no wheelchair access coming into the terminal. It seems like we don't do anything for them. But I would like to say that they are our fellow Inuit, and they all think and feel like we do. They want to be involved in certain things too, like us.

I'd like to add that whenever they are leaving the community, some of them have to stay in the vehicle, like they don't have any mental problems, just physical disabilities. They aren't able to use to normal exit and entrance of the terminal. They have to use the back door. I'm just bringing up that issue.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate if his department's budget for small and minor capital projects includes funding for such upgrades?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really regretful that this was not thought of when the terminals were being built, but all new builds have proper entrances. Now we add wheelchair ramps to old terminal buildings whenever they are being renovated and updated. We always add the ramps.

In terms of your question about the funding that is available for small capital projects such as this, yes they are fixed through that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister. Yes, it has been regretful, but then there is an opportunity and there is funding, so that's good news.

The other question I would like to ask (interpretation ends) the Nunavut

Airport's 20-year Infrastructure Needs Assessment report was published by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in 2014, almost a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how his department has been consulting with the municipalities of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River to ensure that the updated 20-year Infrastructure Needs Assessment report reflects priorities that the communities have identified in their integrated community sustainability plans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For that report that's being referenced, as soon as it's translated into Inuktitut I will be tabling it here, the 20-year Infrastructure Needs Assessment report. It has been completed in English. Once translated, it will be tabled here.

During the planning process, the hamlet was involved and needed things like vehicles and airport, airstrip, they look to see what community needs in terms of airport infrastructure. So, it's a really good planning process and they also include what needs to be replaced during the planning process, we try to follow that properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for telling us. We should have good expectations.

For my other question, (interpretation ends) during last week's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, my colleague from Sanikiluaq raised a concern about the location of the runway in his community.

As the minister will be aware, Clyde River Integrated Community Sustainability Plan also raises concerns about the location of their runway. I understand that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation may not have the budget to immediately relocate runways.

Uqaqtii, can the minister confirm if the federal Airports Capital Assessment Program provides funding for runway allocation projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This included. It is used to improve what is already being used and if we are going to ask for something new, it would have to come from a new project and the money we get from the federal government is to improve existing infrastructure. If we want to create new infrastructure, we need to apply for different funds from the federal government or from the House here. It is a two-part thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 129 – 6(2): Iqaluit Port Operations

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

My questions today are following up from the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday the minister was asked what the operational plan for the port here in Iqaluit was going to be. At that time, the minister stated that he cannot state at that current time; that he hasn't made the decision yet.

Mr. Speaker, in the response, the minister also stated that it is likely that that port is going to be opening this fall. I'm very concerned at the timing, Mr. Speaker, when we are looking at as little as maybe three months away that that port could be open for business and there has not been a management model decided upon.

There are only three that I can think of: government to operate it, contract it, or a port authority be created. Maybe there are more that the minister can educate me on, but all three of those scenarios, and likely all scenarios, hiring and training needs to occur.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is: when will the management model be chosen and implemented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, this work is being done right now in terms of those options

for the operations of the two ports that are being currently done for this.

So I don't have necessarily which options they will be. I trust that the work is being done in terms of giving out the options, and once I get that, I really understand the urgency and I share that with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't give me a timeline on when that decision was going to be made, but I will follow up with him. I think this is a very urgent issue, Mr. Speaker.

From my understanding from previous discussions, one ship at a time will be eligible to dock at the port here, but there is also a large ramp as part of the construction project that would allow for 24 hour offloading. There are going to be some, I'm sure, prioritization of ships coming in, what types of materials, but also within that, there are going to be docking fees that are going to be associated with ships docking at this port or in the bay.

Utilizing the infrastructure here at the port, have those docking fees been established, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not at this time. That is a part of the work that is being developed as a part of the

operations and maintenance of the port. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is also a very urgent need. I'm sure our shipping companies, for their own revenue and projections and expenses would prefer to have that information sooner rather than later. That has a direct impact on the cost to the consumer.

Mr. Speaker, also related to consumers, access to the port to pick up sealift at the beach, individuals have an opportunity to either pick up their sealift on their own or to contract a local contractor.

When I look at my experience with ports there are fairly high levels of security that are needed. It can't just have the average person going in and out of facilities like that. My question to this, Mr. Speaker, is: how is the security going to be done? Will it incur any additional costs? Will it be contractor access only, or will members of the public be able to pick up their sealift on site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of that part is still under works and as a part of the Oceans Protection Plan, we did ask for a sorting facility there that would help with sealift and that project is a part and parcel as a part of how sealift will be sorted in Iqaluit. I look forward to that date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 130 – 6(2): Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Action Plan

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

As you know, I am proud to have been active with the National Family and Survivor's Circle in the development of the National Action Plan to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls And 2SLGBTQIA+ People, which was released of last year.

As the House is aware, the final report from the national inquiry came out in June 2019. Mr. Speaker, it was exactly one year ago today, June 7, 2021, that minister's statement was delivered in this House concerning the release of the national action plan.

At that time, the Legislative Assembly was informed that "A full and meaningful response will take time and require human resource and financial capacity, political will, and not only a whole-of-government approach but a territory-wide approach that includes all levels of government, agencies, and Inuit organizations."

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize the complex and multifaceted nature of this challenge, but it is also essential to have clear accountability. For the record, can the minister confirm which member of cabinet has the primary and lead responsibility for coordinating the government's implementation of its

responsibilities under the national action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that very good question. It is very true that there has to be proper representation and to have a voice in the governments. The federal government is responsible, working with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. They are working on the action plan at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, the 2022 Progress Report on the implementation of the National Action Plan was released two weeks ago, on May 23 of this year. The report includes a summary of some of the initiatives taken to date by the territorial government, and I acknowledge the positive work that has been done. Mr. Speaker, the report also indicates that:

"In the coming year, Nunavut will begin working towards drafting an Action Plan to address the Inuit-specific calls to action. This will be done in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council."

Can the minister provide a clear timeline for the completion of this work and can she confirm if her department has engaged or will be engaging outside consultants to develop our territorial

action plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the minister did state that EIA would be taking this on, so just for clarity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, there are going to be three entities that were working on this and especially the action plan and making the progress report and that's an annual report that is produced. We take further action, working with those entities and also there are third parties that we work with when we're looking at the action plan and what is needed.

We also work with the federal government on the action plan and when we're planning meetings, we usually submit by invitation and have a meeting, including the committee. From there, we take further action that would be applied Canada-wide or Nunavut-wide. To date those are proceeding, but we haven't had meetings recently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2022 Progress Report on the implementation of the National Action Plan describes the important work that was undertaken last summer in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet as part of the Arnait Tulliningit: Women's Leadership Forum initiative. This gathering focused on working towards gender equality and social change in Nunavut, two goals which are at the core of my work in this place. Can the minister confirm when

and where the next gathering will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To supplement my response, the reports will be compiled and produced. We are currently doing consultation work and we are going to be working with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Department of Justice.

With your last question, the Qullit Status of Women Council and our department work together to look at where they're at and I would like to look into this further before I make further responses. There have been some changes, but those are in the works on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

Question 131 – 6(2): Search and Rescue Training

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the community and government services minister in regard to search and rescue training that happened in Sanirajak and the other two communities.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the Royal Canadian Air Force for conducting exercises with the search and rescue up in Nunavut. I greatly appreciate that Sanirajak was also included.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge further in terms of this training exercise that happened that was involved with the bundle dropping and parachuting and also spotters. I would like to get clarification and an answer from the minister in terms of how the department is in collaboration with the civil air search and rescue that happened. What is the further collaboration with CGS and also with the civil air search and rescue in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, on Nunavut Emergency Management, my department works with not just locally but other parties around search and rescue exercises when it's ground-based and when searches are done from the ground. I would just like to note that for marine searches, those are led through the Coast Guard, just to make that distinction.

My department works with Joint Task Force North and there is a joint rescue coordination centre operated by the Canadian Air Force, and my department coordinates and supports those efforts when they're doing exercises along with the local search and rescue folks, which we're very much thankful to have at the local level. These volunteers have done a tremendous amount of hours and so we appreciate their efforts in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, it's very important when there's a distress call because it saves lives. These civil search and rescue are located probably in Trenton, either way, or Ottawa.

I would like to go back to my question when I said collaboration. Is Emergency Management Services in the planning stages of including a station in, for instance, Sanirajak? As you know, it is pretty geographically in the centre of Nunavut. In saying that, when it comes to geography, we are in the North Baffin, South Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot. I would like to make the minister more aware that... How will the Emergency Services Management Board be able to come up with a station in Nunavut such as Sanirajak? Are they working in collaboration with the civil air search and rescue down in Trenton? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Emergency Management Division would like to do a feasibility study on full-time search and rescue aircraft stationed in the territory. It's currently initiating a review of this feasibility and this will assess the viability of a government-operated search and rescue aircraft to be stationed within Nunavut. The location or locations of those were all under consideration and I can't say which one would be looked at more closely, but it's still ongoing work that my department would like to proceed with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is nice to hear that the Department of Community and Government Services are looking into that feasibility study. Saying that, I just mentioned that Sanirajak is pretty much located... and when there is a distress call, that would be a good spot to be a station.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, I would like the minister to agree with me that if they're having a feasibility study, I would like to invite the minister to come up to Sanirajak to see the airfield, the hangar, and the Canadian service helicopter is located there.

Can the minister agree with me that if I invite him for a further feasibility study, would he be able to come and visit my community of Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his invitation and I'll treat it as an open invitation. Just looking at how our territory, we have 25 communities and with search and rescue, our emergency management, I think Sanirajak is one of the communities, I note in the 2022, there's been four searches in the community that I note. That along, with Igloolik at 5 searches, I think that once I do have an opportunity I would like to visit Sanirajak and meet with the member in his community around search and rescue, and the potential around infrastructure.

If there will be this feasibility study that we're looking at, I think it would be a great opportunity to discuss those at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 027 – 6(2): Report on Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period November 19, 2021 to March 31, 2022

I have one document to table. It is the Report on Members' Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period November 19, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 007 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, June 9, 2022, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member South Baffin, that pursuant to the

provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 27, 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I seek unanimous consent to deal with my extended adjournment motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 007 – 6(2): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you members.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until October 27, 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 5 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:41 and Committee resumed at 16:07*

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to call our committee meeting back to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 2, 3, 5, and Bill 6. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the 2022-23 main estimates for the Department of Education, once the Department of Education is concluded, we will deal with the housing corporation, and if we have concluded with the housing corporation, we will deal with

(interpretation ends) Family Services.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to ask the minister; your officials are already there, but I would like to ask the minister if you have... Oh, sorry. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Gross, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To my left, we have Deputy Minister Hainnu, and to my right, we have Director of Corporate Services Mr. Suleiman. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) We are on page G-10. K to 12 School Operations. Any questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

My first question is, (interpretation) the K to 12 School Operations Branch is projected to receive a significant increase in funding for 2022-23. What accounts for the increase in funding?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The increase in costs is reflecting to the busing and the collective agreement. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister.
(interpretation ends) The account structure chart on page G-1 of the 2022-23 main estimates indicate an increase of 27.1 positions in the K-12 School Operations. What new positions will be added and how does the department propose to field these positions?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The positions include: student support assistant, school community counsellor, school secretary, custodial, and that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister.
(interpretation ends) The department's Inuit employment plan indicates that a number of new student support assistant positions will be added to the department in phase 2. The revised funding formula

will add 25 new school staff positions. How many of these positions are included in the 2022-23 budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the student support assistant for 2021-22, there are 42.6 PYs and for 2022-23, there are 12 community counsellors, and 6.85 school secretaries, and 6.25 custodial. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, minister. Here in the business plan, on page 119, under Priorities for 2022-23, (interpretation ends) second bullet, "Work with community-based partners to develop enhancements for school meal programs." Does that include lunch programs and snack programs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Currently each school operates their food programming differently, and most depend on school staff or community volunteers. As decisions are made regarding school meal programs, our regional school operations will ensure each school is supported in what they are offering. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that explanation. (interpretation ends) What are some of the immediate priorities of the department's retention and recruitment strategy for educators? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We missed the question, but we know it is around educator development and recruitment. Can the member please repeat the question? *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Malliki, please repeat the question.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for going too fast. (interpretation ends) What are some of the immediate priorities of the department's retention and recruitment strategy for educators? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Part of our strategy was delayed due to COVID-19 and staff capacity. The department will be engaging with stakeholders to support the work, and the work on the strategy will start this year, 2022-23, with a focus on the strategy to be able to retain and recruit educators and Nunavut for the short-term, mid-term, as well as find ways to

develop more Inuit and bilingual educators in the long-term.

Also, the department continues to attend career fairs and uses social media regularly to attract teachers and potential teachers.

In 2022-23, advertisements will be placed again in local and regional publications promoting careers and education to Inuit. Additional resources continue to be developed as the need is identified, including partnering with the Nunavut Arctic College to promote the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. Under Priorities for 2022-23, third bullet, on page 122, “Deliver training to ensure all school staff understand and are ready to undertake their duty to report child abuse and neglect with emphasis on recognizing possible signs of child sexual abuse and how to handle disclosures of abuse and neglect.” Has this already planned for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. A Nunavut-specific workshop called “Our Children, Our Responsibility” preventing child sexual abuse in Nunavut is offered through the Embrace Life Council. The purpose of this workshop is to open the dialogue and around sexual abuse and its prevention.

The Department of Education supports staff to become Embrace Life Council trained facilitators for this workshop. In the fall 2021, 16 schools received this training for a total of 384 school employees that participated in the training. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) The issue of school violence has been raised in the media and in the Legislative Assembly. How is the department working with the Nunavut Teachers Association to address these issues? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. School violence, as we know, is a multidimensional term encompassing various forms of violent behaviours, non-physical or emotional victimization, physical victimization, and sexual victimization. Our department is dedicated to increasing the reporting of violence in schools to meet the needs of students, staff, and community members.

Our department, in partnership with the Nunavut Teachers Association, created a new reporting form to increase the reporting of violence in schools. The reporting form is undergoing a privacy impact assessment before it can be rolled out to schools.

I am confident with the increased reporting we will be more able to

measure the full scope of the issue and be better prepared to allocate the required resources to reduce violence in schools and provide supportive tools required for students and school staff.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. Under Priorities 2023-24, fourth bullet down, “develop a tracking mechanism to ensure that staff complete mandatory training.” (interpretation) Is that already in place or in force, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, we missed part of the question. Tracking mechanism is what we got. If the member can please repeat?
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): We didn’t hear you, Mr. Chairman. What was that?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The minister would like the member to repeat the question.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my apologies. “develop a tracking mechanism to ensure that staff complete mandatory training.” I forget what I asked. Oh, is that in the developmental phase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member wants to know if the mandatory tracking for training for staff is currently set up?
Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Suleiman to answer the details of that question.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, minister, and I also thank the member for the question. Currently, we work closely with the NTA. They have a system in place where we provide funding through our collective agreement. Tracking is kept on that system. We, annually, get a report that shows all the different types of trainings and professional development completed by teachers in the territory.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) The department has faces significant challenges in Inuit employment efforts, especially in the area of bilingual education. What new actions or initiatives are being considered to support recruitment and training of more educators who can provide instructions in Inuktitut?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The department is offering after school sessions via teams on different components of the balanced literacy program. For example, sessions will be offered on guided reading and social emotional resources. This is the first year that these sessions have been offered. 2022-23 will be the second year of implementation. The department has been getting positive feedback from educators on these sessions. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to the member, just for clarity, that's to get bilingual Inuktitut speaking teachers the after school courses? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. There is the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, the new language program delivered through the Nunavut Teacher Education Program that is helping bilingual teachers become educated through taking that program. In the first two years, once they're completed, they can work as a bilingual teacher. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. One of the biggest challenges to student success is poor attendance at school. What new action or initiatives are being considered to promote good attendance? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The department is currently working on an attendance tool kit that will be coming out before the fall with information and incentives for our schools to encourage and increase attendance. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want a little more clarification. What exactly is in the works on this?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The department works with the district education authorities and school principals to develop stay-in-school incentives and to identify share promising practices in communities that have good attendance rates. Some of the initiatives include the development of a family engagement strategy and a program to share effective practices from Nunavut schools, as well as what I just spoke to, development of the registration and attendance tool kit for our district education authorities to address student attendance and registration.

The toolkit outlines strategies that our district education authorities can use to encourage parents to enrol their children in the school system, and includes an attendance improvement tool as well. The tool kit includes a section that discusses attendance strategies during

the COVID-19 pandemic. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that point. One of the department's priorities for 2022-2023 is to support, monitor, and advise on effective school leadership practices and standards within Nunavut schools. Which departmental division will be responsible for conducting the support, monitoring, and advisory activities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I'd like Deputy Minister Hainnu to answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member for the question. With respect to the departments divisions, they also have principals and... They are the ones that decide first and it's not just for one division, but it's to initiate in all areas concerned.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying this. The department's 2022-23 business plan notes that departments will implement and produce instructions for

maintenance and upkeep of internet ready devices in Nunavut schools. Will information technology specialists be conducting such maintenance and upkeep activities or will the school staff be trained to do? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education's IT department will help to support that. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How will the department be evaluating the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the success of Nunavut students? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Our department has created resources to support and assist students and parents during remote learning times and assessment throughout the school year.

In collaboration with the Department of Health, the Department of Education continues to develop and implement strategies to ensure the health, safety, and quality education for Nunavut's children and youth.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, our schools are back open and at 100 capacity as we had some schools in the past close for

temporary periods due to COVID-19.
Quana, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I have no more names for K-12 School Operations. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question that was asked earlier. I just wanted to get more information. One of the hardest things in the community is when the number of students are diminishing and the attendance levels gets really low. I think one of the big reasons was after COVID-19, student attendance was really low. In my constituency I have seen teachers with no students to teach.

The reason I want to talk about this is because I want to know if you make any considerations with other entities like the local district education authorities or the parents, or the school leadership because having no students attending looks really bad.

There has got to be a way to bring it back to the way it was and make it better. Can you tell us what else you can put up to give students more incentive to go to school, because some students are not going to school at all? Have you thought of any incentives for students to help make them want to go school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The department does work with our district education authorities and school principals to develop stay in school incentives and that is used to identify

and share promising practices in communities that have good attendance rates.

We are working to ensure that our schools will increase our capacities for attendance and we work with the [Inuuqatigiitsiarniq] positive schools funding, which we distribute through our district education authorities, who then further enhance and promote attendance and give away prizes, for example, at the end of the school year or on a monthly basis.

It is up to each district education authority to use at their discretion, but we would like to explore other opportunities to enhance attendance, and I hope that will come forward through the government process in the next few months to further support and enhance education, along with the attendance toolkit that will be delivered to our schools and communities before the next school year starts. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go to the next person on my list, can the minister tell the committee here what the average attendance rate is for each region, currently, right now? With the last information that is available? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Right now our attendance for the regions is: in the Kitikmeot, 50 percent; Kivalliq, 64 percent, and Qikiqtani 59 percent. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to touch base on our chairperson on the attendance rates. As the minister just mentioned, there's 59 percent in Qikiqtani. Was this before COVID-19 hit or after COVID, after the school went back to full capacity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. This was after COVID-19, and we returned back to school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you on that, minister. I guess, before COVID-19 hit, the attendance rate was high and it drastically dropped within those regions. What's the next plan in promoting this education, after the COVID-19 hit? Most parents say, as one member has just mentioned, that with the parents not wanting to send their child to school, how is the department planning to have the attendance rates go up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The department has been working on creating the attendance tool kit, as I have been talking about. That is our hope, that we'll be able to improve

attendance and the registration of our students. It's not just the Department of Education's responsibility, Mr. Chairman. This is a joint effort that needs to happen between our community, our schools, our parents, our students, and everyone.

They say that our children by our community and it takes many hands and people to ensure that we are properly doing what we need to do in sending our kids to school for our business to not allow our students go our stores, for example, is one thing that I've heard when we were visiting Pond Inlet, that they closed the convenience store that's right next door, during school hours and not allowing students in, those types of things.

Attendance is very important and in saying that, developing this tool kit and providing additional incentives is our hope that we'll be able to come up with more incentives and that's something the department has been working on and I look forward to that roll out coming prior to this new school year starting in the all. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If I could just interject before I go back to the member. As the minister, you keep talking about the tool kit. I think what the member would like to hear is what's in this tool kit. Do you have a person in the school visiting parents, "hey, why is your kid not in school? What are your concerns?"

Can you give more specifics to the committee on what's in the toolbox? We have heard that you have a toolbox, and you go best practices. Can the minister

tell us what's in the toolbox and what are the best practices? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. As the attendance toolkit is being revised, I would like the deputy minister to address that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the member. I think the fact that we are having the attendance discussion is a success. We need to talk about it more. We need to talk about it all the time.

The attendance and registration toolkit has been in the works for some time. Low attendance is not new Nunavut. Low attendance is prevalent in all of the Nunavut community. There is not one higher than the other, but what the attendance toolkit has entailed is not just people working at a desk to collect work and type it up and send it off.

They visited communities. The district education authority development officers visited several communities and conducted focus groups identifying challenges and successes that went in towards this attendance toolkit. Clyde River, Sanikiluaq, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Gjoa Haven were the communities that put work into this.

The attendance tool kit allows the district education authority to have the tools to discuss "Okay, when a child is missing, school; what do we do? When they don't come to school on the first day, what do we do? When they don't

come to school after two days, what happens?"

Planning out at the school level, what will the school do? The school team? What will the district education authorities do and how then can they communicate with the Department of Education so that we can offer supports? I hope that answers the question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) for the explanation. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that the department is taking steps in order to get the attendance rate up and that is one way of promoting the department to make sure the attendance rate is up to date and making the students go to school.

Speaking of attendance, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to know if the department is still using the attendance ration when it comes to operations and maintenance. Is the department still sticking to that ration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, we use funding for a formula based on enrolment. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After letting go of that attendance ratio and just looking at the

enrolment part, is there a positive side to what the minister just mentioned with the enrolment part? Is there a positive initiative with this change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. For the particular details, I would like Deputy Minister Hainnu to articulate the answer. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding formula doesn't take into account the attendance rate of students. They put into account the number of students that potentially can attend, so therefore the staffing is based on the head count; so the actual number of students.

So even if a child is not attending, then we still allocate the number of teachers required so that staff are better able to receive students who may be behind academically because they have missed some time in school. So there are benefits.

In addition, there is a baseline created. Since the Department of Education was created in 1999 for Nunavut-specific, we just adopted an existing number of positions. So we never said if you have a school of 400 you'll get an *ilinniarvimmi inuusiliriji*, a secretary and so on. We never had those baselines before. With this new student enrolment headcount method, there is now a baseline, which will give equity in schools. Thank you

and thank you to the member for the question.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you on that. So does that mean that these more population communities, such as here these three regional communities; Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay will have an advantage when it comes to the enrolment part? How will this play out for those communities with a smaller population and fewer students enrolled. Will the funding formula be affected? Or how will it be laid out? I'm curious on that. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman and *quana* for the question. The short answer is no. We follow the student-educator ration and our department follows a cabinet approved funding formula when determining the number of teaching staff to allocate to each community. The previous student-educator ratio formula was unpredictable with swings from year to year as enrolment and attendance changes.

These fluctuations created challenges in terms of staffing and staff housing. The previous funding formula did not include all school staff positions and that led to inequitable distribution of some positions.

Our department developed a revised formula to capture school staff positions and to ensure a more consistent and equitable distribution of staff across

schools. The department submitted the revised funding formula for consideration. It was reviewed and approved during the winter session of the legislature in 2020-21.

The department is currently on year one of three of this rollout adding additional 42 net new positions of our student support assistants. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that it is not on population but on the enrolment part, so I was glad to hear that it will be laid out evenly to all 25 Nunavut communities.

In stating that, under Objectives on page 119 of the business plan, is that where the minister mentioned that when it comes to staffing and retaining and relocating, that the department is willing to support schools in hiring? Is that one of the human resource support when it comes to staffing issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. If the member can please rephrase the question as we did not clearly understand. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kaerner, can you rephrase your question.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Absolutely, Mr. Chairman. You indicated that there are employees with the support of Human Resources and the Department of Education did have an impact on the students and the numbers of registered students in the schools.

You indicated that you got support from Human Resources. Do you foresee an increase in the number of registered students enrolled in schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. We always want students to enrol in school, and it's an obligation for parents to enrol their children when they become of age to enter the school stream and to work towards a positive and healthy lifestyle by going to school and doing their best throughout their education career, from K-12 and beyond, Mr. Chairman.

Having our students in our communities enrol in school is one of those areas that we're happy that we're using this new formula now so that we can meet the demands of our schools being big enough to support all of the students in our communities and that we build our schools to reflect how many students are enrolling and we do hope that our children and our youth are attending school on a daily basis, with the provisions, if they're not feeling well to be home and excused. In saying that, we do encourage school attendance and enrolment in our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I think there is still miscommunication, I don't know if the member still wants to rephrase his question or not? Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Rather than rephrasing, I had a partial answer on that, so I'll leave it at your discretion. I'll leave that for now, and perhaps I can mention it on another day.

On page 118 of the business plan, the objective of the fifth bullet there, that is to support the development of a strong relationship between schools and communities to support the district education authority in implementing the education program from kindergarten to grade 12, as directed by the minister.

If the minister can further elaborate on how she will be directing these district education authorities, when it comes to a good relationship between the schools and the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The Department of Education holds regular meeting with our partners and we're always pleased to be in discussions with our district education authorities and to talk to them on various school related, either initiatives or responsibilities that they hold as our bodies that are representing our communities in our education.

The department also has the *Education Act* and under section 8 it describes the

responsibilities for the development of education programs in our Nunavut schools, and these education programs refer to the delivery of our curriculum, which is established by the minister.

Our principals in our schools develop the education program plans by choosing what courses or subjects they will offer during the school year, and who will teach them, and in what language and to whom and when. So, there is a lot of work that does happen between the department and our school leaders, as well as the district education authorities.

Furthermore, our principals support the regional school operations in each community to complete their education program planning to process and provide an overview of the school's approach to the delivery of the education program for that community.

The *Education Act* requires that the principal provide a copy of the education program plan to the district education authority, as well as the minister, as soon as possible after developing or amending their plan. By completing this process in the spring of each year, schools have developed a complete system set up for the delivery of the approved curriculum and local programs. With the new *Education Act* under section 21(1), that requires the education program planning to be developed before September 30. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the detailed information on that, minister. When it comes to a strong relationship between

the department itself and the district education and the community, it was good information to hear.

Speaking of operations, Mr. Chairman, when it comes to Inuit employment efforts, on page 119, is that one of the priorities for retention when it relates to bilingual education at the school level? How has the department laid out its bilingual education at the school level? I'm interested in that, when it comes to the Inuit employment part with operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Chairman. I'd like Deputy Minister Hainnu to answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Complicated question there. I think it's a sophisticated system in terms of every community is different. Every community has different resources as it pertains to bilingual education delivery. Every community struggles with finding qualified educators.

So, is the community looking for educators that can be in the classroom teaching kids how to read, cognitively learn with manipulative materials, enhance numeracy skills? Or is the community looking for hiring bilingual educators who are elders under Innait? It used to be Innait Inuksiutilirijiit, but now Inuksiutilirijiit, over \$1.2 million per year the department funds to hire 320 elders in the schools.

If you know students who want to become teachers, it's a great profession. You can climb the corporate ladder, I can speak to that. What a privilege to be a teacher in your community teaching your own dialect. If you can help promote and recruit teachers, we welcome it, but bilingual education delivery is our ultimate goal so that our children will become global citizens and live anywhere they want, and do whatever they want. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that, deputy minister. It's a very sophisticated education when it comes to social studies because that was my worst subject.

No, in saying that, Mr. Chairman, as the deputy minister just mentioned, is the Inuusiliriji position with 230 elders. How many of these... I'm sure they are split into each region, when it comes to Inuit employment efforts. Does that mean the department is in the planning stages to replace those Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit with Inuksiutilirijiit? Is what I understood, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. It's a joint effort and our elders employed in schools are employed in various ways and the department funds the district education authorities to hire and recruit the elders for our schools. The schools have a budget that they can spend at their discretion to hire the particular elders or

what types of training they would like their elders to teach the students. We are very pleased with that program and I know our schools are as well, to have our elders working in our schools and for them to be passing on our traditional knowledge. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that there will be no changes. Moving onto another question, it was touch upon with the school meal programs. For the priorities for 2022-23 on page 119, I still would like to get more information on the development enhancement and the department actually working with these community-based partners.

Is the minister in agreement with me when it comes to Inuit employment initiatives that the department is at least looking into creating staff for school meal programs rather than having community-based partners? Living in a small community, employment is very minimal.

I would like to get more information if the minister is in agreement with in creating staff when it comes to operations, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question on school meal programs. It is something that we are looking at and reviewing as all of our schools are different and the school meal programs are graciously funded through the Department of

Health and administered through each school to choose the best suited needs for their community.

However, in saying that, not all of our schools are built the same or have spaces, and they work around those challenges. So our department is committed to supporting initiatives that alleviate food insecurity to set up our students for successful learning. School staff and community members volunteer their time to support food programming in our schools. Our food programs are currently funded through third-party initiatives, such as the Department of Health, or some communities fund and find outside third-party funding through Jordan's Principle, for example.

Our current food programs, as I said, are offered differently in each community, depending on capacity and funding that they have obtained. There are no meal requirements or health standards, and this is something that we are working on as a department to ensure that they are following the food guide and adhering to all of those things required.

Going forward, our department will work to determine best practices and opportunities to work with our partners to standardize and enhance meals provided to our students at each school. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I can just remind the minister if you could be more precise and to the point. The member just wanted to know if you agree with them that you could hire staff to run food program. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to focus on that part since the minister mentioned it is on a voluntary basis when it comes to school meal programs and the priorities for 2022-23 and it goes all the way 2024 that they will continue to support community-based partners in delivering meal programs.

In saying that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask again: when these priorities are all the way up 2024, with in a matter of two years, would the minister be in agreement with me, again, in creating this position when it comes to healthy snacks or healthy school meals in promoting this program. It would probably be a good opportunity when it comes to pre-employment work experience.

That is why I stated: is the minister in agreement with me in creating this position, rather having community support partners? That will be me last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Currently there are no positions funded through the Department of Education to provide food programs in our schools. That is up to our schools to use the funding that they get from the Department of Health and other funders to support and pay for their people to prepare the food in the schools as a part of that budget.

We are looking at reviewing, as I said, school meal programs, and we will take the member's thoughts into consideration, however, everything costs

money and it needs to go through the process to further enhance and support our schools and our schools are stretched thin. Our teachers are the ones who are preparing the food, waking up early hours to prepare breakfast and volunteering their time to ensure that our students are well fed.

I commend and thank them and all of the volunteers and our school leaders and people who are employed to feed our young children. Thank you for your time to cooking and preparing food for our students, and we appreciate all of you. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. If I can just remind the minister he just wanted to know if you agreed but that was his last question. I have no more names on my list for K-12 School Operations.

I'll have one question here. When our education system is fully bilingual; I'm not saying if, I'm saying when it is fully bilingual, each student graduating will have to be bilingual in either Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. If a student is not bilingual in one of the languages, will he or she graduate? Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That pertains to Bill 7 and the discussions there are yes, they will graduate. That is our hope is that we will have, as our deputy minister said, global citizens who will be bilingual in Inuktitut, English, and we look forward to that discussion coming forward. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't quite receive an answer, but you said they will graduate, but what I'm asking is: will they graduate if they are not bilingual?

When we are fully bilingual, each student will be fully bilingual in English and Inuinnaqtun, or English and Inuktitut to graduate. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like Deputy Minister Hainnu to answer that question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to discuss the different graduation pathing opportunities and also the credit system for graduating high school in Nunavut.

In Nunavut, a student requires 100 credits to graduate. It used to be 130 and then it became 120, and now it is 100 credits and was most recently updated, I believe, in 2016-17. It is reviewed regularly; four to five times per year, but students and parents have the ultimate choice.

Right now, the language of instruction models that are currently in place and in place for some time; July 1, actually, unless Bill 7 is passed, that there are three models that students or district education authorities have to pick and a student can graduate using those language of instruction models.

So, if it's immersion, dual, or Qullit, it's different. So, in Iqaluit where there is a dual system, some students may never have entered a language arts Inuktitut course at all, but they are eligible to graduate because they earned the 100 credits. It's based so individually on their graduation pathing.

One of the things that we're doing as a department is in the regulation, when the report cards are issues out, that we also issue validation statements from here on in so parents and students can know two and three times per year how many credits they've earned and how many more they have to graduate.

I apologize if I spoke quickly, I tend to speak very quickly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you (interpretation ends) K-12 School Operations. G-10. \$193,880,000. Agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Next, on to G-11. Educator Development. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan, the educator development branch focuses on providing support and training for current employees. One of the priorities is that there will be focus on training opportunities for current and aspiring principals. Has the department faced challenges in recruiting certified principals for Nunavut schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are always challenges recruiting principals. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When applicants apply, if I understand correctly, the local district education authority and the representatives from the Department of Education proceed with the job applicant and hiring process.

Are there any barriers in that respect with regards to advancing local teachers or local staff in the school system to achieve the level of principal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The recruitment, and going through the hiring process is done through the Nunavut Teacher's Association. For our teachers who are already in our school curriculum, there are no issues or barriers for them to move up to potentially become principal within our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 121, in the program and implementation training, it speaks to providing a variety of training and supports targeted to school based employees in all occupations. In the objectives on the previous page of 120, at the very bottom, it talks of designing and delivering professional development framework for employees in the school system. Are these training opportunities open to casual or relief and substitutes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Some training opportunities are provided to our relief staff. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How are those opportunities communicated to the staff locally? When we're looking at some of the capacity issues within a lot of our schools, if we're going to be taking substitute teachers out of the schools for these training opportunities as well, how is that coverage going to be made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of ways that that information is communicated during the time of school orientation, through email, and also the professional development days throughout the school year are areas and times when our teachers and support staff and relief teachers can go and become trained, and we look forward to the training that is provided for professional development.

I know those that work in the schools are happy for them, and we have designated days for that training. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on page 121, at the very bottom in the 2022-23 priorities, the last bullet on the page, it talks of providing "...training for Inuit educators to

become more familiar with department-developed Inuktitut resources, which will support successful implementation of the curriculum and greater retention of Inuit educators within the school system.”

My question there, Mr. Chairman: isn't that just a normal part of business? If you're an educator, period, you should be continuing to follow curriculum development and available resources. Why does there need to be a special focus in the business plan for Inuit educators? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education has letters of authority and sometimes those letters of authority have little to no training, so this provides us an opportunity to ensure that they have training and the resources that they need to be well equipped in our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister brought up letters of authority, and I know it has been an contentious issue for many years. I believe at one point, a couple of terms ago there was even talk of relinquishing that authority.

When we look at educating our students, and I talked about this a little bit yesterday on how important it is to have an appropriate education for our students; we want the best for our students, we want the best education outcomes as possible, when we look at

letters of authority, and I'm not trying to degrade what they're trying to do. Do they have the resources given to them?

To me, I do have a challenge of taking somebody off of the street with minimal training and putting them in a classroom where you're going to be teaching and grading a bachelor of education. It's not just a piece of paper. There is a whole profession in learning how to teach. Again, I know a letter of authority can give somebody that ability, or maybe not that ability, but that opportunity. Are there any prerequisites or any mandatory training or any type of additional criteria that a teacher applicant working under a letter of authority has to fulfill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like Deputy Minister Hainnu to answer the particulars. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for the question. Again, Nunavut is a very unique situation. We are in a very unique situation. When I was born, when I was a child, in my lifetime when I was born, there were 13 dialects that were living and were strong. Now there are seven that I know of.

So when we talk about qualifications, are we talking saving a language, saving a dialect, and maybe you are correct that we do need to look at the way we designed the delivery of these courses,

so maybe when we do hire people we do put them in partnership with a colleague in a mentorship position, and we are, and so we have reviewed that.

Also, for every school in Nunavut, we have given a learning coach. In the class they were known as literacy coaches, but they have then evolved into learning coaches so that our students will not lose their language, will continue to use their language and grow in their community and have value in the language that their parents have, but also if we could...

I know everyone is going to be saying this; it's either COVID-19 or housing. In this case, housing has a lot to do with it and coming up with additional housing for teachers will help us to recruit qualified teachers.

Right now, our teachers across Nunavut are sharing units, they're living together. If you can think of the teachers that are living in your community, if you want them to stay long, they might want to start a family and live in the community, but rather they're sharing an apartment with two or three other teachers.

Those are very good points, and I hear you. Thank you for the question.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's where I'm going with this; it's just the consistency of education. When we were talking yesterday of being able to have consistent educational opportunities across the territory, it doesn't matter what community you're

in, you should be getting the same opportunities to succeed in your academics.

At the same time, two of my kids have gone through the school system here from kindergarten right through... well, my last ones graduating this year. So, I've been very involved in their academic lives, anyway, and one of the things that have concerned me over the years is the lack of consistency, especially when you're getting into the Inuktitut curriculum side of things, where we've had some wonderful opportunities with some teachers that are very engaged and they work closely with the kids.

And then, other times you're getting kids in their teens and doing like word find searches or colouring homework. I struggle with it, because we all want our kids to accomplish the best, better than what we've done in our lives. I feel it's unfair to them, and unfair to the teachers in some circumstances, because they're not trained teachers. They have a Bachelor of Education. I'm not saying that's the end all be all.

There are many people, that in my life, have been fantastic teachers and had barely grade 2, but at the same time, when you're working within an academic system, there needs to be some kind of continuity to it. That's where I struggle with the disparities between one school to the next, one teacher to the next.

I've spoken to some teachers, who in a lot of ways, have created their own curriculum to make sure that... because they feel that the curriculum that was available wasn't sufficient to what the students deserved. They went over and

above... well, not everyone has that initiative or even that ability to be able to do that.

We spoke yesterday on the curriculum, and I had some questions on it as well. I can't enforce enough on how important to have trained teachers in our schools. There are many opportunities for up training. There are teacher breaks. There are courses that could even go on in the summertime if people want to advance their career... and encouraging people to go onto the NTEP program- I know you guys are trying to do this, this isn't my first rodeo. I've been here for over eight years now and we're still dealing with a lot of the same issues that we were dealing with then.

I'd just like some kind of description on what the department is going to do differently? That is going to actually make some achievable goals and set some targets. It was said yesterday that we need over 400 Inuktitut-speaking teachers across this territory; we're a little over halfway there.

And there's probably a lot of those teachers are going to be retiring in the next year so it's going to be a continuous wheel that we're going to be running and running and running on. I just want to see some clearer targets and some clearer outcomes that this department, this government, is going to be working to achieve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the points and the words provided. Training opportunities for our especially language of instruction

teachers is very important and I would like to add that the department resorts to hiring language of authority teachers when we are in desperate need and it's used as an emergency measure.

I would like to further add that the department is committed to increasing Inuit employment under Article 23 and we have an internal employment education leave program entitled, "Sivummuaqpaallirutiksats," to help you move forward, which was introduced in 2008 to provide Inuit employees an opportunity to develop professionally and advance their career. This program was aimed for our staff that are under the NEU and they're who are interested in pursuing teacher training.

A highlight from this past school year, which was a challenge for the department but a great time for the time, is that the community of Naujaat had seven teachers to find in August to start the new school year, as there were letters of authority and student support assistants who took the opportunity to take the Nunavut Teacher Education Program that was being and is being offered in their community.

We're very happy that our staff from our schools are going to these programs. We're happy that the Nunavut Teacher Education Program is expanding to our communities and for the funding that is provided to further enhance and support more communities to receive Nunavut teacher education training, as it's great to have programs like these offered in our communities, where people don't have to travel outside of their home community to attend school if they're from a community that isn't currently

offering a program such as the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

I would like to add that the program is not limited to NTEP, but all employees currently accessing the program funding that the department does have are enrolled in the NTEP program. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question would be: how many Department of Education especially within the school systems are currently on or have applied for education leave to attend NTEP programming? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The department currently has 15 staff that are undergoing training at the moment. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Next person on my list: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 20, (interpretation ends) objectives, (interpretation) that George referred to earlier, we have educators who lived in communities for a long time and never seem to learn Inuktitut. Perhaps this is an area where educators could be mandated to become fluent in Inuktitut under (interpretation ends) Educator Development. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. No, it's not mandated at this current time. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It should be mandatory because they are on Inuit land. (interpretation ends) At least basic adult, (interpretation) I think there should be an Inuit language training course for non-Inuktitut speakers in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like our deputy minister to answer the question. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you for that question and thank you, Mr. Chairman. To make Inuktitut mandatory for school staff when we have vacancy issues already; we can't fill the positions we have without creating additional barriers.

Making it mandatory is something that would need a broader discussion, so I'm not saying yes, or no. I don't think the minister can say yes or no. It's a community decision. What do the communities need? What do the communities want? If you can't go into trades because you don't have... . There are so many questions. However, that

being said, it is a community decision. Language of instruction will be discussed and part of it will be “should employees of the GN, because these are employees of the GN, do we mandate it for one group and not mandate it for another group.

Those would be creating two different things because we all work for the Government of Nunavut, but we can shamelessly and happily and excitedly promote all staff in learning Inuktitut, so much so that there are incentives; the bilingual bonuses, the bilingual allowances for those who do speak Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, and also professional development where a teacher can hire on a one-on-one basis an instructor to teach them how to speak Inuktitut, and they can get reimbursed for it. \$33 an hour they can pay someone from the community or a teacher to learn Inuktitut.

We can shamelessly, excitedly, happily promote it, and I have seen people learn Inuktitut in a very short time, so it is encouraged. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Just before I go back to the member, just for clarity, Ms. Hainnu, you just said it is up to the community if the community wants it. Are you telling this committee here that if the community wants bilingual teachers to be mandatory, that that is what will happen? Ms. Hainnu.

Ms. Hainnu: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to clarify that. So according to the hiring process, the requisition for a job advertisement that goes to HR, the district education

authorities have input in putting down what the desired requirements are. So specifically, in the hiring panel of each district education authority, they have an opportunity to specify and stipulate on the requirement to screen in that for... actually multiple opportunities, so a requirement to screen in, in addition, then you can restrict it to Nunavut Inuit. I hope suffice to the answer. Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) for the clarification. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for that clarification. The reason I was asking that question is some children don't have proper parenting. They have to rely on their grandparents and the grandparents end up having to go to the school. They can have interpreters, but it would be good if they could speak directly to the teacher and it would be more informative.

(interpretation ends) The department provides funding for teacher professional development as part of its contractual agreement with the Nunavut Teachers Association. What types of training and professional development opportunities will be offered in 2022-23?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. The department has a number of different opportunities. The first is to develop a mentorship program for

principals and a draft framework for this program has been completed and there is a working group that's established to provide feedback to the framework. The feedback will inform the completion of the mentorship program and this will include a working group that is dependent on staff capacity and filling current vacant positions and is expected to be active beginning in 2023-24.

We also have the review orientation programs for teachers and principals. This orientation is provided to newly hired educators and school leaders each summer. Currently within our Orientation to Teaching in Nunavut series, the following two non-credit online courses are offered each summer: the first one is cultural awareness and trauma-informed practices, and introduction to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit education framework for Nunavut curriculum, and the orientation sessions are held during multiple times throughout the summer on key areas for educators and school leaders to help prepare them for their new roles. Also, Mr. Chairman, newly hired educators and school leaders are also provided with a school leaders' key essential guide for teachers. This key essential guide depends on their role and both of these documents are currently in draft and will be ready and finalized by the end of 2022-23.

One last point is that we have cultural competency trauma-informed practices, reading and writing strategies that will be offered this professional development during this year and plus, teachers can choose what they would like to take during PD week, or professional development week. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to remind the minister, I know you want to give as much information as possible, but maybe you can shorten your answers a bit. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The department's business plan on page 122 addresses the issue of staff being trained to recognize the possible signs of child abuse and neglect, how to handle related disclosures, and make a report. What entity will be delivering this training? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That's under Educator Development and the particulars in a workshop titled, "Our Children, Our Responsibility: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Nunavut." That's offered through the Embrace Life Council. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Educator Development. G-11. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$11,960,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go on to the final page, G-12. Advanced Education. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I've got most of my FANS questions out of the way anyway already, but just a quick question, and I

wrote a note in my page here, but I can't remember if it was from a response to my question or if I had asked the question; I can't even read my own writing sometimes, Mr. Chairman.

FANS currently has 10 PYs associated with it. Can the minister inform us how many of those are filled?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. All of the PYs in the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students are filled. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I brought up the concept of summer student employees working in the office of FANS. I'm sure the minister followed up with her officials after that line of questioning. Are there currently any summer students working in the FANS office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are summer students employed in the FANS office who are students themselves. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always been a very strong proponent of the summer student

program, especially when it's linked to their academic studies. That's something, again, that I have been lobbying for, for years and I have noticed the Department of Human Resources has, in the last couple of years, followed that as much as they can. Obviously there are some personal preferences here and there that some students want to work for certain departments and maybe they have been working there for a few years now.

Within the FANS division, are there any students from the NTEP program or an education B.Ed. program working in the FANS office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll try to remind members, for the interpreters' sake, acronyms. I know FANS, as we all know FANS, so I'll let that one go. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. That's not a requirement. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it's not a requirement. I was just wondering if any of the summer students that are working in that office come from an education program. Again, it would just add that much more opportunity for our students that are applying for funding or through assistance back and forth with different post-secondary institutions on making sure that their forms are filled out properly, to make sure all the needed information is there and available.

Again, it has been brought up that one of the challenges with student applications is the lack of information or missing information from the application. Again, having people going through that process and I do recognize that summer students aren't necessarily post-secondary students; some of them are still high school students working as summer students. I would just like to get a little bit more clarity if the minister is aware that any of those students are in an education background academic program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. *Quana* for the question. The two summer students that are hired, one of them is pursuing the Bachelor of Education and the other one, office admin. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickey. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Advanced Education. G-12. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$14,358,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to G-3. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$252,280,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask the minister if the minister has some short, brief closing comments.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Department of Education staff that has been here with us in the Legislative Assembly, Deputy Minister Hainnu, to my right, Director of Corporate Services, Abe Suleiman, and yesterday we had Assistant Deputy Minister of Support Services Melanie Abbott. Also in the room we have Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Programs Sonia Osbourne and our Director of Policy Arielle Stockdale.

We also have a tremendous amount of staff behind the scenes who are not here in the room with us but are working every day their hardest, and I would like to commend every single one of them within the department, in our schools, and everywhere across our territory. Thank you for your commitment to education.

I would like to thank all of the members here for going through the deliberations for the Department of Education and we look forward to the work ahead with the finances that were approved.

I would just like to thank our interpreters as well for being there for us as we go through these discussions. I, too, would like to be fluent and hopefully that will come someday, but thank you for everyone who speaks Inuktitut and encouraging that in this space, and we look forward to our youth going through the education system. Thank you so much for the opportunity to appear before you. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. Members, if you could just stay in your seats. We will have the opening comments from the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Minister Kusugak.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly. I am here to present the 2022-23 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The main estimates for the corporation reflect the following spending increases:

- The Nunavut Housing Corporation manages a portfolio of approximately 5,955 public housing units and 1,735 staff housing units. It provides management and oversight of this large housing program with the support of approximately 320 staff from the 25 local housing organizations (LHOs) along with approximately 100 staff from the Nunavut Housing Corporation.
- In the fiscal year 2022-23, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is requesting \$237,543,000 from the Government of Nunavut for the operations and maintenance – an increase of approximately \$18.4 million from the 2021-22 fiscal year. This budget is broken into three major categories: Public Housing

which is budgeted at approximately \$145 million, Staff Housing which is budgeted at approximately \$72 million, and Advisory and Administration Services at approximately \$20 million.

- Public housing expenditures are targeted to increase by approximately \$8.2 million for fiscal year 2022-23. The corporation will add approximately 256 new units to our inventory by the end of fiscal year 2022-23 and the associated operations and maintenance costs are reflected in this increase.
- Staff housing expenditures is targeted to increase by approximately \$8.26 million. As the corporation's staff housing portfolio increases, so do the costs of maintaining our units. The corporation is seeking to add 126 new staffing units in relation to an agreement to purchase units from the Nunavut Construction Corporation (NCC). We are seeking an additional \$4 million in this 2022-23 budget to lease an additional 60 to 70 staff housing units to help address the demand.
- Advisory and Administrative Services is seeking an increase of \$1,500,000 in expenditures as a result of the increases in utility costs of Nunavut Housing Corporation-owned office buildings, IT hardware, software upgrades, Internet and security improvements.
- The corporation is also seeking an increase in funding of \$414,000 to compensate for the net reduction in funding from the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, Inuit employment is a priority for the Nunavut

Housing Corporation. Local housing organizations account for a significant portion of the corporation's operating budget. We will work to provide opportunities for recruitment, training, and advancement of Inuit. The corporation continues to support cross-training, internships, career broadening and mentoring, and heavily promotes its online training platform to this end. Supervisory-level training and development is ongoing. Our goal is to establish a continuum of Inuit employment.

Mr. Chairman, my officials and I will continue to implement the government's mandate and respond to the needs of Nunavummiut for safe and affordable housing, including support for elders. In fiscal year 2022-23 it will be important for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, all GN departments and agencies, as well as the Members of this Assembly and key stakeholder groups to collaborate on achieving this shared vision.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to a meaningful discussion on this.
Qujannamiik, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Hickee): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and 2022-26 Business Plan of the

Nunavut Housing Corporation. The corporation's proposed 2022-23 operations and maintenance budget is \$237,543,000. This represents an 8.4 percent increase from the 2021-22 main estimates. The number of positions in the corporation has decreased from 123.0 to 119.0, which represents a decrease of 3.3 percent.

Members raised a number of issues and concerns during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2020-21 Annual Report under the *Nunavut Housing Corporation Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2021. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-2020 annual reports on contracting, procurement and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 16, 2021. The 2020-21 and 2021-22 annual reports have not yet been tabled.

On October 20, 2016 the *Blueprint for Action on Housing - Implementation Plan for the Government of Nunavut Long-Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. This document contains 60 specific action items that are intended to address an extremely broad range of housing issues. The standing committee continues to recognize that it is not practicable for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to simultaneously implement all of the blueprint's action items, and continues to encourage the corporation to prioritize its work in a clear and focused manner. The *Status of Housing Report 2020* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 29, 2020. The standing committee looks

forward to the timely tabling of future reports.

On April 13, 2022 the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs announced that the 2022 federal budget will “invest \$300.0 million to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.” The extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be involved in the development of this strategy is unclear. The 2022 federal budget also indicated that \$60.0 million will be provided directly to the Government of Nunavut over the next two years for housing. An additional \$845.0 million will be provided over seven years to “support housing in Inuit communities.” The extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be involved in the allocation of this Inuit-specific funding is unclear.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2021-24 business plan indicated that it had “met with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on several occasions to discuss affordable housing for Inuit on Inuit-Owned Land.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to “Work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Regional Inuit Associations to address...potential partnerships to design and deliver additional housing units across Nunavut.” It is unclear what specific resources Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations have committed towards the construction of new housing in the territory.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2021-24 business plan indicated that “new management agreements were signed as of June 2020 and help clarify and define the relationship between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Local Housing Organizations, ensuring that the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s programs are delivered consistently across the territory.” The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to “Initiate a study on ways to improve the delivery of social housing in Nunavut, including a review of the housing allocation process, organization structure and governance model.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this work.

On January 24, 2013 the Government of Nunavut announced changes to the public housing rent scale. These changes came into effect on February 1, 2014. A key goal of reforming the public housing rent scale has been to remove disincentives to employment. On June 1, 2020 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals to undertake a review of the public housing rent scale. The report from the review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2021. One of the recommendations in the report was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation should “consider moving to a unit-based rent assessment system.” The extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation agrees with this recommendation is unclear.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s most recently tabled annual report indicates that only 3.3 percent of public housing tenants have an annual income

of over \$100,000. The standing committee notes that the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* indicates that one of its specific action items is to "...review possible development of a fixed-rent subsidized housing model targeting high-income public housing tenants, particularly those currently paying maximum rent in public housing."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recently tabled annual report indicates that there was a total of \$41,266,000 in public housing rent receivables as of March 31, 2021. The annual report also indicated that "the collection rate increased to 91 per cent this year from 80 per cent in 2019-2020." The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Monitor and review the impact of collections policy and procedures to reduce Local Housing Organization arrears and continue to develop and implement Local Housing Organization deficit recovery plans." The standing committee supports measures being taken to assist local housing organizations in these areas.

The Government of Nunavut's current Staff Housing Policy was approved in April 2019. It falls under the responsibility of the Department of Human Resources. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Support the Department of Human Resources to seek opportunities to improve the delivery of Government of Nunavut staff housing, including the development of incentives and opportunities for staff housing residents

to move into affordable rental/homeownership units." The extent to which this review will consider introducing a new down-payment assistance program for Government of Nunavut employees is unclear.

This concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2022-23 Main Estimates and 2022-26 Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Before we proceed with the minister and his officials, we will take a 20-minute break. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:02 and resumed at 18:26*

Chairman: Thank you, everyone. I would like to welcome everyone back to the committee proceedings. I would first like to ask the committee if they will allow the minister to have witnesses.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, could you introduce your witnesses, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Eiryn Devereaux, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my left is Stephen Hooey, Vice-president and Chief Operating Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. As we have already done opening comments, I'm just going to ask

committee members if they have any general comments to the opening comments. Seeing none, so everyone is aware, we're on page M-3, but there will be detailed pages if you look towards the back in the appendices titled O-IV-2. We're going to start off with headquarters and it's the corporate headquarters in Arviat and the Directorate here in Iqaluit. I'll give members a moment just to find the page. Again, it's O-IV-2. Headquarters. \$10,477,000. Any questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I will have only one question here. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-23 main estimates indicate that a number of positions located in corporation headquarters is decreasing from 15.0 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to 11.0 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. What accounts for this decrease? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if the member could clarify the decrease in what sector, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll read the whole thing again. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-23 main estimates indicate that a number of positions located in corporation

headquarters is decreasing from 15.0 in the 2021-22 fiscal year to 11.0 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. What accounts for this decrease? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're trying to find that in our notes exactly where it is in terms of that change that my friend is referring to.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I am having trouble finding it is that our compensation and benefits have not changed. There is no change from previous years so I do not know what document Mr. Malliki is referring to, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the confusion but we cannot find that change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki, do you have another question or would you be able to clarify the location for that information? I am skimming through quickly as well. Mr. Malliki. Headquarters. \$10,477,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to page O-3. Debt Repayment. \$10,738,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know the CHMC's funding is going down on the sliding scale. Can I get an update on where it is at? I cannot remember when it is ending so can I get an update on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be concluded. CMHA's contribution of \$19,843,000 will reduce to zero by the year 2038. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it comes down to 0, there is no new funding source. What will be the effects on the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of that is for mortgage payments so it should not have that negative of an impact when this is completed by 2038, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I have no more names on my list. Just before anyone makes themselves known, I would like the Minister to go to the business plan, Nunavut Housing Corporation, page 20, appendix 1 financial summary. In appendix 3 in the three-year forecast, it has the number of PYs at 55, 11, 22, 23, 51 going forward. That is where Mr. Malliki was getting that information. I will give you a moment to get to that page and maybe you can respond to Mr. Malliki's question when you have a moment, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have to come back and confirm, but I believe that this change is due to third party funding for some

positions that were there and it is no longer the case. I will have to confirm that, but I believe that is where the difference comes from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. When you do get confirmation of that, you can just address it to myself. It sounds logical that the money is not changing, just the numbers are. It makes sense. I have no more names on my list. We are looking at Debt Repayment. Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$10,738,000. Agreed?

Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page O-IV-4. District Offices. \$9,776,000. Any questions? Again, that is page O-IV-4. District Offices. \$9,776,000. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that this is where this would be asked. The management agreement with all of the LHOs would be done and there was talk during Opening Comments about the new ones. Do all the LHOs have new management plans with them now or is it still being worked on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is our understanding that all of the new management agreements have been signed and they are in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some are LHOs and others are LHAs. Can the Minister update us on how many of each LHOs and LHAs are within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was not anticipating that question. I do not have that kind of information. My friend is helping me out.

Approximately 19 housing associations and six housing authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any differences in working relationships in terms of easy or more difficult to deal with between association and authority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there practically is no significant difference between authority and organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe the Minister can clarify that there are some differences between authority and organization. The LHOs are all the same. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my colleague

to my left, Mr. can clarify a bit of the difference.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hooley.

Mr. Hooley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of associations, those organizations are created under the *Societies Act*, and they elect their board of directors. Whereas in the case of an authority, those authorities are created under the *Nunavut Housing Act* and their boards are appointed by the minister. That is the primary difference. On an operational level, there really is not very much difference in terms of our interactions with the LHOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that local housing organizations when they have their elections there is usually quite a lot of interest in the communities. With the authority, they are appointed by the minister. In terms of the number of candidates, is there similar interest between authority and organization? When the minister gets a list, is it a pretty thorough list to appoint from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not had the pleasure of appointing yet during this term, but in talking with my colleagues and the staff within the housing corporation, there is always a good list of people who are interested in those board positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if this is the right section here, but in April 2022, the federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations announced that they had \$360 million available for the urban and rural housing strategy.

I am just curious as to the involvement of Nunavut Housing Corporation in developing this strategy. I am aware that it is a federal strategy, but I am wondering if it made any contact with Nunavut Housing Corporation to get their input on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my colleague is aware, the recent announcement is fairly new and we are just beginning to hear from our federal counterparts in terms of where they want to handle this \$360 million program. We are at a very intense state of communication.

In fact, we have the Ministers responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation meetings with our provincial, territorial and federal counterparts happening in Regina in three weeks. I am sure we will be having that discussion of topics that will be there. It will be interesting to see how that begins to get built. I look forward to keeping my colleagues updated on where we go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, he expects to have some input or some say. Can the minister enlighten us on what his position will be in terms of what he thinks should be in the strategy for Nunavut?

There is quite a difference between Northern Quebec, Yukon, and Northwest Territories. I would like to know what the Minister's input would be as to what the strategy should look like in terms of being favourable for Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier in the session, I was talking about how important it is that we get as much funding as possible. It does not matter where and who builds them, but we need more doors and houses for Nunavummiut.

Our strategy going in is to get as much funding as we can in terms of more housing for Nunavummiut. That is where we will start from, and that the houses that we do get are not earmarked specifically for any individual group or organization, but that we have to try to get as much money for housing as possible.

I think we have a very large land mass in terms of Inuit Nunangat and a very large population from the different provinces and territories I believe that we have the largest gap in terms of houses for aboriginal people and non-aboriginal people alike in Nunavut and our goal is try to make that gap narrower and that is

where we are headed with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is more along the lines, but this was not the strategy. This is about the \$845 million that will be provided to Inuit Nunangat for the next seven years to support housing in Inuit communities. Is the minister aware of where this funding will be? Will it go to the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, or to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami? I know it's also very early so just does the minister have any indication as to where this funding might be earmarked to? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the only real indications that we have so far is that it would most likely be earmarked towards the Inuit organizations, but wherever it is earmarked we will be there to ensure that we can help out and participate in ensuring that the money that is brought to Nunavut will be spent as well as possible and we'll try to have as much input as we can, Mr. Chairman, given the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the \$845 million is the minister aware, any indication of how much of that \$845 million might be earmarked for Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't. I don't really have a clue of how much of that we would get, but when you look at the landmass and population, and previous agreements, I'm really hopeful that we'll be pushing as close to 50 percent as possible. We'll be working and supporting that most of that goes to bricks and mortar, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: This will be my last question on this district here. I think it's here, but I'm not 100 percent sure, and you can rule on it: the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in their 2021-24 business plan indicated that it had met with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on several occasions to discuss affordable housing for Inuit on Inuit owned land.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business plan indicated that on page nine, that one of its priorities for 2022-23 fiscal year is to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit associations to address potential partnerships to design and deliver additional housing units across Nunavut.

Can the minister enlighten us as to what specific resources do Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or the regional Inuit associations offer? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer that question specifically, no we're not there yet. In our discussions in terms of what the corporations are willing to offer, our discussions haven't been that fruitful yet, but we are talking in terms of what are the programs and possibilities that the birthright corporations have to offer and how can we access them? We're at that stage, Mr. Chairman. We're not at the point where we're discussing what they're going to bring to the table, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Follow-up, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know, as I said in my last question, but I thought about something here. It is affordable housing on Inuit owned land. Can the minister tell us how many communities have Inuit-owned land within the community? You want to build affordable housing within the community, not outside the community. How many communities have Inuit-owned land? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know that answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I know Iqaluit does. I don't if any other community does. This plan would be very limited into the number of communities that it would actually benefit because, I stand to be corrected, but I believe that there's very,

very few, maybe two, if not only one, community that have Inuit-owned land within the municipality, within the community.

That's just a comment saying that I hope the Nunavut Housing Corporation will not dwell on this too much, because they are there to help all of Nunavummiut, not just a few specific communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're aware of that, Mr. Chairman. We are the Nunavut Housing Corporation, so we will do what we can for all of Nunavut communities. Just because we want to work with Inuit birthright corporations doesn't mean that it has to be built on Inuit-owned land. It could be built on public lands, Mr. Chairman. So, you know, the Inuit-owned land, where they are, if we can take advantage of that or work with the birthright corporation through that, we will do that.

Our goal is to put as many public housing units in all the communities and we won't waiver from that, Mr. Chairman. I really hope that people around this room will help us work toward that goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. If the committee will indulge me, I just have a quick question.

In last year's budget there was \$25 million approved in the House that wasn't specifically earmarked for anything that was received through

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, stemming from the federal government. At the time there were discussions of using that money to bring vacant units that were uninhabitable up to habitable standards. Can the minister update the House on the progress of that project?
Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question. I think that specific reference to the \$25 million was some federal capital money that was granted over to the corporation, and there's a variety of pots of federal money over the last number of years, and hopefully in the coming years, that will come to the corporation.

I think our strategy around it, trying to address the housing crisis and the gap in terms of supply, will be focusing a lot of those federal funding dollars towards new supply as well as renewing existing stock.

Some of that \$25 million, I think a year ago, was probably early on was targeted towards making improvements towards existing stock, and likely some or all of that will go towards that, but I think as we attract more federal investment we'll be focusing a lot of it on trying to add new supply into the marketplace. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that response, Mr. Devereaux. Before I go to Mr.

Malliki, I'm just going to follow up on that same line. Have any of those monies been expended? I know there have been concerns, especially with the tendering of new units, that there's basically no new ones being built out of this year's budget. Have there been any tenders put out? Are there any concerns with how to expend that money to get these uninhabitable units back in inventory? I'm going to go right to Mr. Devereaux, if the minister is...?

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question. Certainly, over the last 12 and 24 months the corporation has experienced challenges around the public procurement process and the high costs of bids, of course a lot of those bid prices coming in were reflective of that cost-risk associated with COVID-19 conditions.

As the Assembly is aware, we did cancel the tenders for this year for 62 and I think we experience similar challenges whether it's the example these new builds, or even do a major modernization to hold units that are in poor condition.

Part of our strategy in looking forward is how we can take more innovative approaches to entice the marketplace to be more affordable in both new supply and also modernizing our older stock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)

I have a couple of questions. The status of housing reports for 2022 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 29, 2020. The Nunavut Housing

Corporations draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 9 that one of the priority for 2022-23 fiscal year is to provide an update in status of housing snapshot in line with the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* while rolling out implementation of the *Katujjiluta* mandate action. What specific items in the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* will be prioritized during the 2022-23 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that, we are currently working on that document and I will be happy to deal with it when we table it in the fall session. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. So we will be expecting that.

(interpretation ends) The status of the Housing report 2022 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 29. When is the next status housing report planned to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be tabling that this fall during the fall session. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) the Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on pages 8-9 that one of the priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal is to conduct a housing needs and demand study in collaboration with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the purpose Build Housing Working Group that will support the development of a proposed Build Housing Policy for transitional housing emergency shelters, people with disabilities, people with experienced homelessness, people involved in the criminal justice systems, and elders homes. What support independent home that support independent living who are the members of the proposed Build Housing Working Group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a pretty extensive project that we are working on with CMHC and the multi-housing working group. We are hoping to have this work completed during this year, Mr. Chairman. I can't give you a confirmed date yet, but we are hoping within this fiscal year that we will have that work completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list for District Offices. Page O-IV-4. \$9,776,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn the page. O-IV-5. Affordable Housing Program.

Public Housing. Any questions. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business indicates on page 12 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Initiate a study on ways to improve the delivery of social housing in Nunavut including a review of the housing allocation process, organization structure and governance model."

What specific issues have been identified with the current allocation process, organization structure and governance model? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one of the issues that when I came online as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and having heard many members of the community, the housing rental community across Nunavut, we often hear concerns about the board of directors having conflicts within allocating units to members of the community that they might be closely related, which is hard to avoid in a lot of the communities, and in some communities it is hard to get as many board of directors onto them. We have housing situations in communities where some people may be over housed and we have a lot of people under housed. So I asked our Housing Corporation to take a look at what we are doing good and what we are doing bad and how we could improve on all of these fronts.

So we are beginning the work on that as we speak, Mr. Chairman, because some of the things we will be looking at and we are talking about is: do we still need local housing associations? In some communities it might not be good to having housing associations. Is there something we could replace that with? Should we be looking at regional housing boards? Should we be looking at local housing boards? Should we be looking at territorial housing boards?

There are many of them and depending on where you are from, the answers will vary. So we are taking a look at that within the Housing Corporation. It is the same with the allocation of houses. We will take a good look at the current allocation of houses. In some communities you need to live in that community for an X number of months or years before you are able to get on the housing waiting list, versus some communities where you don't need to.

We want to take a look at those, see where we can improve and streamline them. So that is one of the many things that we are going to take a look at over the next short while to try to make adjustments on those fronts where it is needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Local housing associations are required under the *Territorial Societies Act* to submit annual financial statements and other items to the Registrar of Societies. As of today, which of Nunavut's local housing association are currently not in good standing and what specific efforts are

being made to address the situation?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of any that are not, but we will take a look at that and gladly get back to the member on that. Most of them are, give or take a few weeks on some of them, but I'll get the details on that and be glad to share it with my members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 12 that one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to: Monitor and review impact of collections policy and procedures to reduce Local Housing Organization arrears and continue to develop and implement Local Housing Organization deficit recovery plans."

As of today, which local housing organizations are in a deficit and what is the size of each LHOs deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just pulling that up as we go. Thank you for your patience colleagues. I'm just trying to confirm which items they are. There are currently four running a deficit, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On June 1, 2020 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals to undertake a review of the public housing rent scale. The report from the review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 16, 2021.

One of the recommendations in the report was that the Nunavut Housing Corporation should "moving to a unit-based rent assessment system". To what extent does the Nunavut Housing Corporation agree with this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point we don't have a firm decision on where we want to go with that recommendation. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. What specific actions does the Nunavut Housing Corporation plan to undertake in response to the review of the public housing rent scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are continuing to review that current rent scale and seeing what kinds of changes we could make with it

if any are needed. We are currently reviewing that whole thing, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could go to the minister's opening comments on the first page, last bullet where he says "Public housing expenditures are targeted to increase.... The Corporation will add approximately 256 new units to our inventory by the end of fiscal year 2022-23...", which is right now. Can the minister explain to the committee how there is going to be 256 new units when initially there were only 62 units being tendered out? I'm not seeing where the math is. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of those units are still under construction from a year or two ago. Some of those units are under construction as we speak, and 2022-23 in the next fiscal year; 2022-23, so we are hoping we would be in the ballpark, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister let the committee know how many are from last year's construction that will be completed this year, how many are from two years ago, construction that will be completed this year, and how many from three years ago that will be completed this year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. So I don't have the exact figure per year, as per the question. What I can say is that this is seeking an increase in utility expenditures, and over the past 24 months or so, as we have had units complete construction, and as members know, sometimes the amount of time to construct can be 12-18 months.

So as some of those units came on, the original capital approval could have been three years ago. Approximately two years ago we didn't come forward and seek 100 percent of all of the utility costs associated with those new units from 2020-21. A rough breakdown of kind of the last three years of units completed is in the range of, and these aren't exact numbers, but in the range of approximately 70, in the prior year 70 prior to that, and then about 150-odd or whatever it was, maybe from two or three years ago.

So that is where that utility increase request is coming from. It is a variety of projects over the course of the last two years that were completed that we have yet to come forward and seek those utility increases on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How was the corporation able to absorb the increase in the operational costs with the new units coming on, because Mr. Devereaux just said that some of the units were on but they weren't budgeting for it? Is it that they had an excessive O&M budget that they could just absorb the new houses? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, did you want me to... Since it is a follow-up I will go right to Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the follow-up question. In the case of units from a couple of years ago, I think when the main estimates were developed, those particular units were late in terms of completion and occupancy in that particular fiscal year. Although it sounds like two years ago how did you kind of be able to account for the increase in utility expenditure? Some of those units came on late into that fiscal year.

Often the challenge becomes, as we complete new units in any particular fiscal year, you may not need to budget a large amount of utility increase. Within the corporation, we certainly look at our overall budget, and where we can, we would pick up if we were short a few months in any particular year, and then we would come forward in subsequent years looking for that increase for utility expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 256 new units that are

anticipated to come into the inventory by the end of this year, does that include the 62 units that tenders have been cancelled, or would it be 256 plus 62 if they are retendered? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, they don't include those that were not tendered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go on the second page on the fourth bullet in the minister's opening comments too. Earlier I asked Mr. Hooey about the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation declining fund, and Mr. Hooey replied that it will have almost no bearing on it. Yes, in the minister's opening comments it says "The Corporation is also seeking an increase in funding of \$414,000 to compensate for the net reduction in funding from the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation."

I just need an explanation on what Mr. Hooey said and what the minister said in his opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Hooey.

Mr. Hooey: It is my understanding that the declining balance will have a marginal impact on the budgets. So

CMHC's National Housing Strategy, which we're engaged in in the next nine years is partially designed to offset those costs as well as we move forward, so it is a bit of budget ask and I would honest have to have our CFO, which who unfortunately is not here, to describe the details of the CMHC plan that was implemented in 1999. We are moving forward with that over about 40 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This budget of \$414,000; isn't that just for the year 2022-23? Thank you.

Chairman: Did you want me to continue to go to Mr. Hooey, minister? Go ahead, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, it is, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hooey was saying that it had almost no marginal effect on the budget at all. I think \$414,000 is... . It's not big in the overall budget of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I agree with that, but it is a decent amount of money. \$414,000 is a lot, so is Mr. Hooey still saying that it is going to have a marginal effect?

If you need \$414,000 this year, it would just seem to me that you will also need at least that much the following year. If I can just get an explanation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. If I understand you right, are you asking if there is

going to be a correlating budget request as the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation funding declines? Okay. Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and there will be a correlating effect, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Just before I go to my next question, just a comment. I don't think \$414,000 is a small sum of money, so I don't think it was correct to say that it will have almost no... . The Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation's declining income will have no effect to the Nunavut Housing Corporation in the coming years. That is just a comment.

The rental arrears, I believe they are at least \$40 million now within Nunavut for public housing. Is there going to be a time where some of this is written off as bad debts in terms of, you just realize it is uncollectable? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. If I recall the minister's statement release, I believe it was nearing \$52 million now, but Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Where are we here? Yes, it is around that figure, Mr. Chairman, and the associations and the corporation are continuing to try to recover all of that money. It has been a struggle and we will continue to do that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Nunavut Housing Corporation looking at a policy where you would write-off some of this debt eventually? If you haven't collected from a person in 20 years, but the person is not deceased... I understand if you are deceased, then yes, it would have to be written off I would assume, but are they working on a policy where... I'm not advocating that people shouldn't pay their rent. People should pay their rent, but it looks really bad year, after year, when the arrears have gone up.

I believe when I first got elected it was at maybe \$10 million or something like that and it has really gone up. If I can just get the minister's position on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation, working with the associations, has been trying to find ways to make people pay their debt. Some of them as little as \$20 a month addition, as long as they keep trying to put it down. The corporation has been following all the normal accounting procedures in terms of collections and we will be following the accounting procedures if there is a time where we have to write that off, Mr. Chairman.

The downside of writing debt off is people will say that "Well, Joe didn't pay his arrears long enough that they wrote it off, whoever Joe might be. We don't want to go there and we will continue to try to find make sure that people pay their bills and debts, and we will follow the accounting procedures

and policies to that end in terms of writing off or not writing off debt, Mr. Chairman.

It is increasing and we have to find ways to try to have people pay their housing bills, Mr. Chairman. That's a lot of money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Just for the viewing audience, I just want to clarify that when an amount is written off, it's an accounting measure. The debt is owed. That doesn't disappear unless it is forgiven and that is a totally different ballgame, so they still wouldn't be eligible for housing. They would still be subject to repayment and that type of thing. It's just from an accounting measure standpoint. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the members, so we will all know here, can the minister tell us what the maximum rent is for a one-bedroom, a two-bedroom, and three-bedroom, because that is related to arrears going up. I think it depends on what it is, so if we can get that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just give us a second to find it. It is in our notes. Mr. Chairman, the maximum rent on public units for a bachelor, it's \$840 a month. These are monthly rents. For a one-bedroom, it's \$1,140. For a two-bedroom, it's \$1,466. For a three-bedroom, it is \$1,792. For a four-bedroom, it is \$2,118. For a five-bedroom, it is \$2,443. These were last updated based on the 2018 rate, Mr. Chairman.

If my colleagues would like me to email them a copy of this, I would be more than happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the cancelled tenders for public housing that were put out, I know the minister said that he is in talks with private industry. It has been about a month. Can the minister give us any updates on how the talks are going? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The talks are going well and I really hope I could have something more concrete than that to come to with my colleagues, Mr. Chairman. The talks are continuing, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: I don't know if the minister can elaborate on this or not; the talks with private industry, are they with companies that put bids in, are they with the different companies? I would just like to know who the talks are being... I don't know if the word is "negotiated" is the right word or not. Who is the minister talking with when he says "private industry"? Is it one company, is it two companies, it is all the companies that put a bid in, is it all the companies that might put a bid in? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are having discussions and at an appropriate time this fall I would be more than happy to divulge that kind of information. I'm not privy to that right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. The minister just stated that he might be able to give that information out in the fall. That to me seems like there will be no public housing units built this coming year then because the fall it will be too late for sealift. Is that what the minister is stated, that the talks are going to be going until the fall and there is a very good chance that any material that has to be purchased and shipped up will be too late for sealift? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman. That is not what I said at all. The shipping season is short, but in some cases there might be units available in Nunavut. I can't really talk about that much of it right now. Our goal is to put houses up and I don't know how much we will be able to succeed by that time, but if our discussions conclude sooner than later, I will share that information with my colleagues.

At this point I would just leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it there for now and hope for an update from the minister

when the minister can give it to us because it would be a shame if sealift left and sealift is critical in terms of if you don't get the material up on sealift and it's just not, in my position, viable to fly the stuff in. The math isn't there. Going back to the local housing associations, I know they had planned to build a warehouse, this is part of the policy that they had every...I can't remember what it is now, every few years anyway. I would like to get an update on how their plan is going? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. It is a capital question, but as it does pertain the LHO operations, I am going to allow it.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I was prepared for O&M. I will have to get back to my colleague on the capital question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got to think now. I'll just stop there for now. It might come back, but my mind's gone a bit blank.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. The next name I have on my list, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm mistaken please let me know. (interpretation ends) I want to talk about the point system for allocating housing in the local housing association. The point system is kind of confusing. Applicants go to social services for support letters, and I learned from a mental health nurse that their

support letters are the strongest and will give you a higher mark.

Some of the applicants at the top of the list don't get housing allocated to them. Can you elaborate on how the point system is supposed to work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point system could be quite overwhelming. There are so many different criteria, and evaluation and eligibility points given through it. The point scoring system, for an example, "write the number of persons in the applicant's household." It could be one to five. How many number of bedrooms the applicant would like to get? If the applicant's household is currently in zero bedrooms up to five bedrooms...it goes on and on and on. There's a point system for each one of them. It's based on some of the income part, for example, 96 to 100 percent for certain income. I don't know exactly what my colleague would like to know, but it is cumbersome and there are a lot of different points scoring systems in there, on top of the housing requirement.

Mr. Chairman, there's also consideration given to individuals who come with letters from mental health workers, social assistance workers, and then there's victims of spousal assault and family violence, separated families, double income or more, then the history of arrears and credit rating, so it is a very cumbersome point scoring system, and that's just to get on the housing list, Mr. Chairman. Thank you

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Would the Nunavut Housing Corporation come up with other incentives than a point system? Or like I said, some people on the top of the list don't get into housing. I believe that the more support letters you get, your points go up and you go to the top. (interpretation) I think that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nutarak. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is one of the issues that I mentioned on a couple of responses. Through session, during question period, I've talked about the housing corporation taking a look at adjusting or make changes to things such as the housing allocation and the points scoring system, that it needs to be a lot more user friendly and I believe used evenly across the board. That's one of the things that we are looking at.

There needs to be some kind of a system. There has to be a way to allocate, whether its individual, or one two or three, where they sit in the housing allocation and who gets the unit. There has to be a system in place and we're currently taking a look at this current system that is there. Is it working or not? What parts of it are working and what parts of it are not? So, we are looking at that.

We have to try to streamline this so that it's the same for everybody. Once of the calls that I often get when I'm housing minister, even though I'm not

responsible for allocating houses to people across Nunavut, is "I was the top one on the housing list, the houses came out and I didn't get a unit." So, there's those, those are all real, and they're real struggles for Nunavummiut. It is one of the biggest issues we have is the housing allocation and the run around that some people get in terms of trying to get letters and support in terms of ranking up their housing units and housing allocation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): I'm done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay. Next person on my list: Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister.

On page 13 of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2022-26 draft business plan, the top bullet says "hold three tenant education program workshop pilots in communities across the territory to provide resources and incentives that encourage current and future public housing tenants to monitor, care for, and maintain housing units." And then in proceeding years, it says "hold three to six tenant education..."

So, it goes up by year. I'm wondering, Mr. Minister, if there will be an evaluation of those pilots that occur in 2022 and 2023 before launching the program in 2023-24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those actual tenant education program workshop pilots will be happening shortly. In fact, I was going to make a minister's statement on it today, but we pulled back.

Yes, we will be holding a train-the-trainers kind of a workshop on it, it'll give the tenants an opportunity to learn about home maintenance, about budgeting, about taking care of your home and the responsibilities of being a tenant in the public housing units and how to apply for public housing units and so on. There's a whole workshop based around that.

We are doing a test pilot to train people to do that, once we've completed the pilot we will evaluate it and make tweaks and improvements on it before we go to the next stage, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You partially answered another one of my questions, but I would like to just remain focused on that pilot. Is this the only tenant education program that you have or does Nunavut Housing have pamphlets and booklets and other ways for people to find out information about how to be a good tenant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the main one we do have. The local housing associations and organizations and authorities have

information pamphlets that they do share with their tenants, but I think this is a very good step-off point in terms of getting that information out there and what we would like to see coming out of this are more information packages for tenants to take, things like how to clean mould off your windows or walls and things like that. I think, moving forward, this will be a very good place to gain information on how to maintain your home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, you mentioned that budgeting is part of this tenant education program. I'm just wondering if you can elaborate on what that means, whether it is just kind of managing personal finances for bill payment or whether it is budgeting in terms of learning about credit ratings and saving for down-payments or building a credit rating in order to move towards homeownership, credit monitoring, and that sort of thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Brewster stepped on all those points that will be part of this. It's not going to be a very detailed budgeting kind of a process, but it will walk you through in terms of how to budget for maybe your groceries and your bills and prioritizing what needs to be done and your credit and so on and so forth, very basic in terms of budgeting information and class. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Am I to understand that this is for adults or is the Nunavut Housing Corporation working with the Department of Education to deliver youth-oriented tenant education programs and/or Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman, it's not that elaborate or that deep. It's just for tenants, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just thinking long term and thinking about how we can build people up towards homeownership or that sort of thing. I think it's something to think about building homeowners from scratch so that we're not running into the same issues as we are facing today in 10, 15, or 20 years.

Just going back around financial and debt management for our citizens, I know that a number of my constituents have come to me with concerns. They're either homeless currently or near homeless. They have debts to the local housing authority and so therefore are not able to be put back on the wait-list. We know that people go into debt for many reasons.

A big part of that is the lack of that...we used to call it home economics, when I

was young and going to school where we learned about the basics of managing a home. We know that a lot of people end up in debt and then because they have a debt to housing, they're not able to go on the wait-list, and then they're probably living in somebody else's housing unit, contributing to overcrowding and that sort of thing.

I'm wondering, when you were talking earlier about debt recovery, debt forgiveness, all that sort of thing, I wonder if you are working to standardize as well the ability for people who do have a debt to also be able to get back on the list and actually provide an opportunity to do exactly what you said earlier, which is pay an extra \$20 a month or some other fee towards paying down their debt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are and have been cases where individuals were removed from housing association housing; one of many reasons could be because of their debt.

I have seen and heard of cases where an individual had agreed to work their debt off while they were not in the house. They paid off their debt through summer work or winter work, whatever kind of income they could receive, and then start paying that debt down and the association sees the effort happening and then they are allowed to get back on the housing list. In cases that I'm aware of where they were put back into a housing unit and allowed to work their debt off,

so that does happen. There are cases where that does happen.

At the end of the day it's important that we house people and sometimes for no reason, reasons beyond their control, individuals are not able to pay for their rent. You have to make some tough choices: if you are going to put clothes on your children's back or put food in their stomachs or pay your rent. That's a situation I don't think anybody wants to be in.

The goal is not to kick people out of housing; the goal is to try to help people to get into housing and maintain their housing and the associations and the corporation will do whatever they can to try to make sure that people can at least get on the housing wait-list and that sometimes includes helping them with a debt recovery program. I'm really hopeful that this pilot will be successful and that we will begin to see more successes of people who are able to pay down their debt or get into housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering, still on the issue of public housing, are there policies that ensure that children are not being evicted from public housing units because their parents run into debt with housing authorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I don't know if I understand the question, Mr. Chairman,

but children can't be in public housing units unsupervised, so I can't see a situation where parents would be removed but the children are allowed to be in the unit, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I understood the question, but that's the answer, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. I'll clarify that question. Are there policies that preclude parents who have children in their custody from being evicted, thus ensuring that children are not evicted from what is usually the last possible hope of housing, which is usually public housing, ensuring that children aren't being made homeless because their parents aren't able to keep up with their rent payments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no policy that directly goes to the detail that my colleague is referring to without getting into further detail, but no, there is no policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just go back to the discussion about wait-lists. Some of the concerns that many of my constituents as well as people who were living homeless when I was involved with the Uqutaq Society here, I worked with a lot of homeless men here and often they said that they weren't told where they are on

the wait-list and that sometimes they got removed from the wait-list because they weren't going back and reapplying or confirming that they still need to be on the wait-list. I wonder if there are better ways to do that, especially in Iqaluit in particular, where the housing office is such a far walk for a lot of people who are living homeless or near homeless.

A couple of things, if there is a move towards ensuring that applicants stay on the wait-list unless they withdraw their names and two, whether or not it's possible to have a regular update for those people who are on the wait-list so that they know. Like you mentioned earlier, somebody could be at the top of the wait-list and still not get a unit, but I think it's really helpful for people to know where they stand on that wait-list and it helps them to keep the housing authority accountable in some ways as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing associations work very hard on these wait-lists and I'm aware that in many cases, they have to report at least every six months to let the local housing association know that they are still on the wait-list. They also have to provide a tax filing receipt to show the kind of income they had from the previous year, but there has to be some onus on the person waiting on the list that they are still waiting for the unit.

I think, in most housing associations, I don't know about Iqaluit, they have to report sometime in the spring and also in the fall to show that they are still interested and that they are still in that

community. That's across the board and if you can report within that time frame to the housing association, they will know that okay, the individual is still in this community and they're still interested in seeking a house, and they're still on that wait-list because oftentimes there will be people on the wait-list and you find out that they moved away two or three months ago.

It's important for people who are on the wait-list to ensure to the local housing authority or association that they are still on that wait-list. The onus is on the individual to say, "I'm still here; I would still like to be on the wait-list." That's normal protocol, pretty much, across Nunavut with the housing associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suggest that Nunavut Housing work to create knowledge around the reality that there are a number of high-risk members of society who don't have the capacity to continually update their applications, and that can be for many reasons. It can be trauma, deep mental health issues, cognitive issues, and these individuals are most at risk in society and often end up...here in Iqaluit they end up at Uquutaq and other shelters. In my observation, there are people that really, genuinely need a more flexible approach and I would hope that we would offer them that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have for tonight. Thanks.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree. I think everybody would like that, but one thing you have to keep in mind is the local housing authorities have very limited staff and in the case of Iqaluit, there are 609 people on that wait-list. To have people check up on the individuals to see if they're on the wait-list still or not is very exhaustive. They have a lot on their plate.

I don't disagree with you; I agree that there are people who are challenged and going through a lot of strain and trouble of trying to maintain that they need to be on that wait-list. I'm sure it's something that our department and the NHC will take a look at, but we also have to recognize that there are 600 people out there on the wait-list and it becomes very exhaustive to try to maintain to see if they're all still here, if they all still need housing or not. Very good points and we will take them into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'll go to the next person on the list. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just go back a little bit to the amount of debt. Is there a threshold where action starts getting taken? Where I'm going with this is, let's say, somebody owes \$6,000 in arrears. If that person was paying \$150 a month, that's 40 months of arrears. If somebody is paying \$1,500 a month, that's four months of arrears. I know there are different levels of action, but it should just be based on the amount.

My question is: is there a threshold? What bothers me in some of these circumstances where I've had to help constituents that have accumulated a large debt, whether it be with Qulliq Energy or with public housing, sometimes in the \$10,000 or more and their rent was very small. They're never going to recover out of that. Is there a threshold that the corporation starts initiating action with a tenant so it doesn't get to that scope where it's just a hill that they can't climb out of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer that question directly, no, there isn't, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might suggest that there should be. If somebody is 40 months in arrears, it means they haven't paid their rent for three and a half years. There are people that are on these waiting lists that are ready and willing to pay their due. I'll just leave that alone.

Another thing when we're talking about the rent scale that has come up when the question was asked about the different maximum rents for a unit, and I'm sure the number has changed even since my recollection. It's approximately \$27,000 per year to maintain a public housing unit. I can't remember if that's net or gross of the rent that's accumulated, but if I look at that, at \$27,000 a year, that's \$2,250 a month.

To me, if somebody is at a high income level, why aren't we recovering the full amount of what the cost is? I know there is a maximum threshold to qualify for public housing, but once you're in public housing, you can make a lot of money. You could be a private business owner that has achieved great success and you could be in public housing, making a million dollars a year and we're still subsidizing that. I would like to get the minister's position on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree with you more on that. I think it's something that we're talking about. I think, as we begin to develop the affordable housing units and put more public housing units out there, in that discussion, we will be taking a look at the current rent scale. These ones that I read off were from 2018. We will be taking a look at that and seeing where we can make changes to address that very thing that my colleague is bringing up. I couldn't agree with you more, sir, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back a little bit, there was a public housing rent scale review RFP that closed in the end of June 2020 and when I look at the business case of that RFP, it talks about the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation committed to an independent review of the public housing rent scale as a result of perceived misinformation about the rent scale administration, confusion, and its

fairness to Nunavummiut who benefit from public housing.

What was the outcome? I don't recall ever seeing a report come from that. There was just the initial talk that there was supposed to be like a two-page executive summary, no more than two pages, findings and recommendations of the public housing rent scale, or findings and recommendations of the disincentives associated with the current rent scale, a review of findings and recommendations on the perceived misinformation about the rent scale administration, and a proposal for an effective communications strategy. I don't remember ever seeing anything come out of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a quick chat with Mr. Hooey while Mr. Hickes was speaking and we believe that document was actually tabled, so give us the next day or two and we will track it down and if it was or wasn't tabled, I will gladly retable it or share it with my colleagues, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's entirely possible. I was pretty busy in 2020.

That being said, if the minister will indulge me, what were some of the easy, low-hanging fruit outcomes of that report when you're talking about... ? I still hear stories of people quitting their

jobs because their rent went up \$400 a month, meanwhile they have \$2,000 extra in disposable income. The math doesn't work for me, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, maybe the minister could indulge me and give me some of the outcomes that came from that report. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly some of the stuff that came out of the report is that we need to work on the incentives to keep your job, to make your payment, to have ownership over your own home, those discussions still happen today. You talk to people and they don't want to do the part-time job because it means their rent might come up. Those discussions are still continuing, Mr. Chairman. Once I get that report, I'll be able to find all those details that my colleague is talking about, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the great staff we have in the Legislative Assembly here, I would be surprised if it was tabled, if it's not in my mail box tomorrow morning.

One last part of the deliverables was the proposal for an effective communications strategy. Again, maybe I'm missing something, but I don't recall seeing anything on a communication rollout to counter some of these arguments and giving people some easy numbers that is digestible and makes a lot of logic and sense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That rolls right in, no pun intended, with the work that we are working on now. One of the things that the housing corporation has been really bad at, actually, is giving out information on the different programs that are available to homeowners, the renters, and so forth and we need to do better at that.

I believe, with this new tenant relations training that we are doing, that we will be piloting over the next little while and teaching tenants how to maintain their home, how to remove mould, how to do minor repairs like tightening your doorknobs and kitchen cabinet doors and things like that. Through that program, I think we will be rolling out a lot more information in terms of what responsibilities are there for the tenant and just some kind of information packages in terms of how to operate your air handling unit in your homes and stuff like that.

I will be the first to say that the housing corporation hasn't done too great in terms of doing public relations information and we strive to do better in that sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister and I have had some personal conversations right along those lines of how simple it is to fix things in your unit instead of waiting, which leads into my next question. I have mentioned it a couple of times in here during this

Assembly on how concerned I was when I was campaigning this time. It seemed even worse. Some of the units that I visited were in incredible disrepair and the kind of stuff that doesn't happen in a year or two years or even five years.

I do know the LHOs across the territory have been mandated to do annual inspections of their public housing units. My first question on that line is: what kind of oversight does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have with the LHOs on their annual inspections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing associations go through many of the units each fall when they do their maintenance on the boilers and furnaces, and those procedures, when they do that, often they will take note of the disrepair of the house and bring it to their managers and their managers will bring it up with the tenants, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree more, Mr. Chairman. I have seen houses where individuals can take apart a snowmobile and put it back together blindfolded but can't tighten the screw on the doorknob or chose not to. We have that.

I think it's important to work with our tenants and let them know how important it is that these are public housing units; they don't belong to the individual who is renting them. We need to do better in that front to ensure that these very expensive houses are properly maintained. The least we could do is maintain them and try to keep them as clean and healthy as possible and

remove the mould. We need to do better at that front. We need to get our housing associations staff to do better in terms of reporting the misuse or abuse of units and in turn the monitoring of that and repair of them. There needs to be a better mechanism than what's there right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you. That leads me to a very easy, obvious question: what is the next step then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are working on that next step, that's tenant relations, and working with the tenants to teach them how to maintain their own home. That's the next step that's coming with the pilot that we have.

In terms of the pilot that we're going to do in the three regions, we will spread it out and once this thing is rolling, we should be educating our tenants in maintaining their homes and making sure that they do respect the unit that they're in, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to belabour this point and I understand in most cases it's an accumulation of damage over the years and the Nunavut Housing Corporation or local housing organization staff aren't babysitters. They're not there to look

over everyone's shoulder in their housing unit, but I can't emphasize enough how much work would be avoided if these annual inspections occurred and those discussions happened sooner rather than later.

I know there are tenant damages. I have said it before. Every time a window gets broken, it's an added cost to the LHO that takes away money to allocate to build more units. We're in such a crisis right now. Like I had talked to earlier about the \$25 million that was allocated through ITK or NTI, I can't remember who the receiver of the funds was from the federal government last year, those monies are available. If the intention of the corporation is to use that to get units up to livable standards or more comfortable standards at the very least, I would strongly encourage the minister in this, I'm going to call it a down year, where there is not a lot of new construction going on.

I know they're still maintaining the previous contracts, but to me, this is the one positive silver lining of all these new units not being built is that we have time and the people now to be able to look at accelerating the repair of a lot of these units, using federal dollars that, from my recollection, is very flexible. I strongly encourage the minister to direct his officials or work with his board to make the maximum use of that money as fast as possible so that when do start accelerating our new builds again, it's an opportunity to be able to take advantage of this time and place. I'll leave that as a comment.

I do have a concern. I know the minister has mentioned that we can't afford at \$1,000 per square foot and I'm not

suggesting that we take the first tender and I know there are discussions that are going on behind the scenes that the minister cannot talk about yet, but we're in a housing crisis and there have been strong commitments in our mandate to build many units, and this delay even of one year is putting a real challenge in front of the corporation and in front of this government to achieve the goals that it set out. I know we all want to work with you guys as much as we can to make those ambitions a reality, to house as many Nunavummiut as possible in the shortest period of time.

I have said it before; I'll say it again. I don't care about engineering awards. I don't care about design awards. I would appreciate some energy efficiency awards, but at the end of the day we need boxes with a bedroom, a bathroom, and a kitchen. We need to build as many as we can as fast as we can. I'm not saying build to poorer standards, but we don't need the Cadillac versions either when a good, solid Volkswagen will do, if I could use very general terminology.

I'll leave those as just comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry for using up so much time, but I thought they were important points to make.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Points well taken.

Just a couple of things to remember that 50 percent of our inventory is over 30 years old, so it becomes very hard to maintain something that's really, really old and renovated so many times that it shrinks from the inside.

Also, we're in a real housing crunch, and when you put 10-12 people in a two bedroom house, something has to give. Cupboards end up being broken, not on purpose, but they're not meant to be opened 50,000 times by 10 different people. It's meant for two or three people. When you take 10 people and put them in two bedroom house, things are going to break. It's just going to happen. We just have to realize that.

There are many people out there who are doing their best to maintain their houses and keep them clean, and maintain them, but when there's no room in that house and you have three families and one washroom, something is going to break. We have to keep that in mind, and we do.

I totally respect how hard the people in those housing units are working to maintain them because there is that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on the homeownership program and emergency repairs. Are the people out there informed about what kind of programs you have available for homeowners?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. We have people who go up to the Nunavut Housing Corporation to find out what types of programs are available for potential homeowners or homeowners who would like to use the emergency repair; the

heating oil tank replacement program, and so on. There are also emergency repair programs available and there are quite a large number of people that inquire into our office about what's available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. I have another question regarding homeowners who, for example, hire a company to fix their home heating boiler and usually in the smaller communities there is no journeyman available, but in Naujaat we have a close working relationship with people who can do the repairs in private homes, and so on. Is it possible to provide more support to homeowners who require repair and maintenance, and so on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that, Mr. Malliki. This comes up quite often and I would appreciate to see if there has been any progress on this. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have done that. The smaller communities who don't have plumbers or electricians or other journeymen work together with the housing corporation to see if they can get support to get a journeyman in. We are more than willing to help homeowners through working together, and I even know of a community where someone's furnace had a leak, they approached the local housing organization, and they were given new furnace, and when the shipment came in, the equipment was replaced. That is how we work together.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that clarification. Some homeowners go through challenges when there is no journeyman available. Is it possible the local housing organizations to provide that type of assistance to the homeowners so that they can keep up with their maintenance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, we will see how we can provide that type of support to homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. I lost one of my questions and I can't remember it so I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I would like to ask is with regard to arrears and I'm sure some tenants owe quite a large amount. When they die, the spouse is left with children and grandchildren, and they end up having to pay the long-time arrears.

Is there some kind of policy or procedure where you can review the matter at hand and see what you can do to help the spouse? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be the onus of the renter to pay the arrears. Should that person pass away, then it wouldn't be transferred to the other people in the household as they had not signed the lease agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for further clarity, for the spouse who is not working, yet the spouse who may have been paying \$800 a month passed away, would those arrears be forgiven should the signatory die? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll use an example of a man and wife. If the individual with income should pass away, the arrears would go to widow, and should the widow earn less than the deceased, the amount in arrears would be decreased, but if there were two signatories on the lease agreement, the amount would stay the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you very much for that information. I have another question regarding what I believe was a pilot project where there were four communities that would be used as a pilot project in the Baffin region. Are those four divided up among

the three regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is currently in the works and we haven't identified which communities we will place those pilot projects, but we do know that there is going to be one in each region, but we haven't decided where those communities are going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It's always been puzzling to since the time the housing corporation made an announcement that once you reach the age of 60, that you become rent-free. (interpretation) That was the case at some point that once you reached 60, if you lived in a public housing unit, it was rent-free. So that is the case.

Here we, along with the corporation are urging people to become homeowners. That doesn't seem to make any sense because I would be waiting to become 60 so that I would live rent-free in public housing.

I can use my mother as an example. Let's say her son is there, and if the mother pays for the heating and so on, the son would be living there rent-free. They would be taking advantage of the programs that are being provided to the elders and we have to revamp it because too many people are taking advantage of the situation.

Again, with the communities that will be a part of the pilot project, one thing that I support is living in public housing, there are different offices that are being made available. (interpretation ends) To strengthen the tenants and also to review the tenant agreement that they have signed with the housing association when they become a tenant, to review and provide education on that, and again, that fits with the tenant relations officers doing an open house. Perhaps that would be of benefit in both ways to do an educational open house in the communities with the housing associations. (interpretation) That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. That was a good comment. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have anything add. That was a good comment and we will take them into consideration. It was good to hear. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Affordable Housing Program. Public Housing. \$160,189,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn to page O-IV-6. Affordable Housing Programs. Staff Housing. Any questions? I'll give members just a moment to get to the page. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go the minister's opening comments again

where it says “The Corporation is seeking to add 126 new staffing units in relation to an agreement to purchase units from NCC.”

If the minister can explain if these were lease houses that the government was leasing or are they new houses and the stock and the stock houses will actually go up by 126, or is it just that they were NCCs and being leased, but now they are going to be the housing corporation’s? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The reference to the 126 units does relate to a portfolio of staff housing units owned by NCC. These were constructed at the division back in 1999-2000. They were a 20 year lease that the federal government entered into that were assigned to the new Government of Nunavut.

So that lease expired and NHC negotiated an acquisition of 126 of those units. The no-net difference, they just move from the column of leased staff housing over to the GN owned staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: If memory serves correct, I believe that freed up about \$4.9 million in leasing budget. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Devereaux for the clarification that there are no net gains in staff housing from lease; they are owned now.

On the same line there it says “...an additional \$4,000,000 in this 2022-2023 budget to lease an additional 60 to 70 staff housing units to help address the demand.” I know that the government is in dire straits of staff housing.

Have these 60 to 70 units been allocated to the communities they will be in? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: No, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question, but they will be where the demand is and that would be in the bigger centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was a call letter issued for leasing of houses for staff housing? How can the corporation estimate that there are 60 to 70 houses just sitting out there that are unoccupied or ready for leasing? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

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

Chairman: Please go ahead, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. Yes, we do on an annual basis do a call out to those communities to see what available stock there is, whether they are units that exist right now that are available for lease or if there is any interest from developers to build for us.

If we are fortunate to gain this appropriation, then we would immediately look to those sectors to see what might be available based upon the demand for staff housing across the territory.

The answer is: if we do get the appropriation, then we would move forward relative to a recent call we did; RFP to the market place to try to match up the 60 to 70 new leases with availability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that staff housing is in short supply in all the communities. The minister did state that it'll more than likely be in the bigger communities. It's more than likely that these 60 to 70 staff housing will be earmarked for the three regional centres mainly then, Rankin, Cambridge and Iqaluit? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It'll go back to that availability but a fair chunk of them will be in those communities, but if there is an opportunity to get into lease agreements in communities other than those where we are looking for staff housing, then we will take every opportunity to go there.

It will depend a lot on what kind of feedback we get from those outside communities, if I may use that term loosely, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't know if the minister would have this figure, but can the minister inform the committee here on just how many staff housing units are needed currently, right now, in Nunavut that are holding up jobs because there is no staff housing allocated to that job. I don't know if the minister would have that, but if he does? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Maybe in your correspondence back to the committee, if you could get that information from the Minister of Human Resources and include it in. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on page 18 of the business plan, one of the priorities for 2022-23 is "support the Department of Human Resources in its review of options to improve the delivery of Government of Nunavut staff housing programs." Can the minister elaborate what options they have, or may have, in mind to improve the delivery? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing corporation is always working with the Department of Human Resources and other departments in order to try to deal with this shortage of housing in terms of trying to ensure that the staff housing we do get is allocated always priority to the highest need or emergency need, in terms of health needs and so on.

Our department will work with them and take a look at if there are any improvements or changes that are necessary. I can't get into too much detail about it, but in terms of housing allocation, I guess there are other means we could do. Do we allocate jobs that are out there and where those jobs are allocated, and so on.

There are many different avenues that we are currently exploring in terms of trying to ensure that housing allocation for staff housing is distributed most efficiently and to those in priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that both public housing and government staff housing are both in dire needs.

I'm just wondering: how is it allocated? I would think it would be in the policy, if it's in capital you can rule me out, but how is it allocated when it's decide that they're going to have their budgets for staff units and public housing units? Thank you,

Chairman: I'll allow the question because there is a public interest behind it and if the minister doesn't have the

information with him, I would imagine it's a probably fairly standard formula. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a bit more technical than I know. I'll have Mr. Devereaux try to give an explanation to that, Mr. Chairman, through you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I appreciate the willingness to respond to the question. Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I think it would probably be atypical of a capital planning process that all of the departments go through.

In our case, with Nunavut Housing Corporation, we see such significant demand for both public housing and staff housing, so in terms of public housing, we have a portfolio of approximately 6,000 units and we have over 3,000 people on a wait list. So that demand is extraordinary.

Every year we are doing capital planning and trying to get a sense on how much capital room there is for NHC and for residential housing. We put a huge emphasis on public housing and we also look to the needs for GN staff housing, so it is not an exact science, but each year, in the last couple of years, if I use some rough estimations in terms of the capital ask for staff housing, I believe it was \$6 to \$10 million and for public housing, we were trying to build at about \$50 million.

I think as we go forward, the distribution between capital is how much will be targeted for public housing versus staff

housing. It will go back to that demand equation and right now, without question, the bigger demand and the biggest demand are public housing units.

I think too, this government's commitment to 1,000 is a very ambitious target over the term and even us looking broader, when we look at a term of eight years, I think it is important that we recognize that because we try to drive and incentivize affordable and market housing units. Those units really are available for GN staff as well as other people in the territory who can afford that, and we really see that as the need there to create supply in that affordable housing segment and market housing segment as a segue for us to make significant change to what the current status quo is for GN housing.

Until we can provide that supply to the marketplace, it is challenging to really make a big difference in that current program that we offer for those 1,800 units in GN staff housing. So it's a big part of that larger strategy that we have to get more supply into the market to allow ourselves to transition from this current state of GN staff housing; get more supply and hopefully that additional supply will mean that more GN employees than just the current 1,800 will have options for affordable rental or affordable homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, (interpretation ends) are all of the staff units in Nunavut filled with employees?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm not sure if the minister would have those numbers. There was a response from the Minister of Human Resources or last week, but minister if you do have those numbers, could you share them?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are approximately, all told, those requiring major repair or occupancy, there are about 350, plus, or minus, empty unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister, for that reply. Mr. Savikataaq mentioned earlier instead of the regional centres having the option it should be more in the smaller communities, and not just to provide housing to the regional centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, and I did mention for staff housing that the requirements are larger in the three regional centres, but if there are options to lease units in the smaller communities, and if the government is requiring staff housing in a particular community, then that is what we will pursue. Mr. Chairman, the smaller communities also have staff housing and we would also look at vacant units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the housing corporation about the programs. Can you explain them please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on these very different areas with different areas such as constructing a building, and affordable housing. So to build units; 20 units for example, those who are leasing, lease to own might be an option and that would have a lot of benefits.

Those who work for the Government of Nunavut and live in staff housing; we can build these houses and allocate them for staff with the option of lease to purchase. That is what we are talking about, with different housing allocated for social housing and staff housing.

The benefit would be there for those who want to own their own homes. As we know, when you want to own your own home, you need to have a down payment. These are some of the areas that we would like to look at as an option within housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for that response. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut's current staff housing policy was approved in April 2019. It falls under the responsibilities of the Department of Human Resources. The Nunavut

Housing Corporation's draft 2022-26 business plan indicates on page 8 that one of the priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Support Department of Human Resources' to seek opportunities to improve the delivery of Government of Nunavut staff housing, including the development of incentives and opportunities for staff housing residents to move into affordable rental/homeownership units."

To what extent will the review introduce the down payment assistance for GN employees? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): As a part of our work we want to develop and build units and once the construction is completed, for those who want to have the option to buy, that would be available to them. That is the ultimate goal, and this would first be for government in the communities, and also perhaps later include non-government staff, and not just in the centralized communities, but in all communities that would like to see this option. That is the vision that we are looking at in constructing units.

There are 3,000 units that we have that we don't just want to give to local housing, but we also want to look at the option of homeownership and lease to purchase. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and minister. (interpretation ends) The housing corporation's draft 2022-26 business

plan indicates on page 18 that one of the priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to “Support the Department of Human Resources in its review of options to improve the delivery of Government of Nunavut staff housing program.” What specific options are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at different areas to consider in order for advancement, and it is still in development. We cannot really provide details at this time, but our department is in discussions with Human Resources concerning staff housing and what further work may arise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name I have on my list: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Mr. Minister and your staff.

Looking at the business plan here, on the operations part, it says that the corporation is focusing on the Staff Housing Program in decentralized communities. In saying that, Mr. Chairman, how are these government employees that are living in a public unit... is there a plan in place for the corporation to at least, as the minister stated with affordable housing units, is the corporation working with Human Resources for the local housing association when it comes to owning the home if that employee is with the government? Is there such a plan for them to own their own home if they are

residing local housing units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I believe the member is talking about the rent to buy. Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to your comment, I did mention some of the points earlier. Yes, but I cannot speak on behalf of Human Resources and what their intentions are concerning staff and housing.

What I can say is: as the housing corporation, we are looking into options in building units for staff who may want to lease to purchase. The other thing we are also discussing, which was previously discussed, but discussions kind of faded away, was for those who wanted to lease to purchase. The question was: can those who can afford it lease to purchase if they have the means to do so. This is also an area we are starting to discuss, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It looks good for those who are in decentralized communities, but not for communities that are not decentralized, like Hall Beach for example. The other community I represent is decentralized. However, those non-decentralized communities, for those who are renting government units and perhaps paying less in rent compared to those renting in housing; is there a similar rent scale for those working who are in public housing and those working for government who

are in staff housing? What plans are there towards harmonizing the rent?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, to your first question, the units we want to build for lease to purchase are also for non-decentralized communities. It is for all Nunavut communities. They will be built based on the request or needs of the community. If there is a request or a desire in the community of Sanirajak to build affordable housing, we would also come there. It is not just for decentralized or centralized communities. It's not just for government staff. Anyone who may want to be a homeowner will have that option available.

That is the first thing we need to be clear about. It is not just for the decentralized communities and it is not just for government staff. It is for those who may want to purchase affordable housing, regardless of which community they are in, or rather, for government staff their pay scales are established.

The rent scale is based on different pay scales. Those who work in government have a set salary and the rent scale is established based on the kind of unit they are in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name I have on my list: Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a question that is perhaps in the bylaws within the local housing authorities. If a person is earning \$80,000 a year, they cannot rent

a public housing unit, and I have seen a young individual who just completed school at the college, and upon taking on a job, was earning over \$80,000 and could not apply for public housing and was told to buy their own unit.

When I was quite a bit younger, I tried to get housing from the housing corporation, but I was told I had never rented public housing so I was ineligible for the program they had. Is that still the case, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, you have to have a maximum salary and if you are in public housing and your salary increases, the rent scale also changes. Individuals can also possibly move to a different housing program. That is the situation, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You answered the \$80,000 salary question, but for those individuals who have never rented public housing before, are they able to get support to become a homeowner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is support there. We also have an application for those who want to mortgage a house. We have a down-payment assistance program and right now we are looking at how, as I

mentioned earlier, when we looked at lease to purchase, if individuals may be interested in purchasing a house, but at the moment we just discussing affordable housing in the coming months it will be a lot more clear on how that will come out, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The other question I have has to do with staff housing still. I know we are lacking houses, but sometimes things don't work out in our lives and if someone who is working in a community quits their government job while living in staff housing, would that person be able to get emergency housing from the local housing association? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have seen that happen more than once. We don't just want to evict people who worked for government for a very long time who were living in staff housing. Once that person is no longer working or if that person retires, or no longer wants to work for the government, we don't want to just evict them. We work with them and the local housing association to see what solutions we can find.

We have found different solutions and if a house becomes available, they are usually given that unit. Sometimes they explain to us that I will have to move out of my staff house at this year, and so that is why I am applying to public housing and sometimes the Nunavut Housing

Corporation has them move to a different unit, from the Nunavut Housing Corporation house. Sometimes that unit can be given over to the local housing association and that person doesn't have to move to a unit, but that house would fall under public housing.

We don't like to just evict people, especially in the winter time when there is nowhere to go and if they are going to be moved to the family and the family's house is probably full too, so we try to find the best solutions for them to make sure that they don't go through hardship. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister. This will be my final comment. It will be just a comment. For those people who are working for the government that are retiring and living in staff housing, let us ensure that they are aware that they have to apply for public housing so that they don't end up in dire straits. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Chairman: I see the minister nodding his head, so I won't bother going to him. That is the last name on my list. I do have one question, if the committee will indulge me. It was brought earlier about the purchase of 126 units that freed up \$4.9 million in leasing budget, yet the corporation is asking for an additional \$4 million over and above. Does the minister actually feel that there's going to be enough inventory to lease across the territory with that increase in budget? Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you for your patience. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the short answer is yes. We also have to realize that we go through renewals of leases and we go through the renewals, often the renewals will see an increase in the rental units. That's what that funding would be used for, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Affordable Housing Program. Staff Housing. \$71,892,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page M-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$237,543,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we're completed with the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, if you have any closing comments.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: It has been a long day, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the comments that were made in this room. I look forward to working with you. I will keep you fully informed as we proceed forward and I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that we will get back you on those points that we said we would. I will bring them to the Chair and ensure that that information is forwarded as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and thank you to all the housing corporation and association staff for doing a terrific job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, minister, Mr. Hooey, and Mr. Devereaux. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: I would like to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. All those in favour. Motion carried. I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move... . Oh, sorry.

>> *Laughter*

I'm so used to seeing... . My sincere apologies, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: It sure has been a long day. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a

seconder? Ms. Quassa. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. 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. *Orders of the Day* for June 8:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3
- Bill 5
- Bill 6
- Bill 7

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 5 – 6(2), this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 8, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:06*

