

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
10<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION**

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TENTH ASSEMBLY

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS  
OF COMMUNITY HEARINGS

*BAFFIN / HIGH ARCTIC TOUR*

*June 1984*

Grise Flord  
Resolute Bay  
Pond Inlet  
Arctic Bay

Pangnirtung  
Frobisher Bay  
Cape Dorset  
Lake Harbour

Clyde River

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

GRISE FIORD, JUNE 3, 1984

(Side one of the first tape jammed and transcribers could not decipher it)

MS OOLEESIE AKEEAGOK: (Translation) I have seen a lot of problems here in our community. It seems like this year the problem has been the greatest. The houses that were built last year are quite small so this creates some problems and the houses that are being built right now have some problems too and it is not very pleasant. The carpenters build the houses in winter because it is dark most of the time and when they are building houses in winter it is really cold out, but they go on any way and the problem that we have is that the houses they are building are frozen when they are fixing it. The insulations are deteriorating already before they even have an occupant. I think the Housing Corporation is not too concerned when they are building these houses. They do not think about the sizes and spaces and we are glad that they are putting more insulation, but when there is a big family living in one house it creates a lot of problems because there is not enough room for the family. The new houses that are being built have children of different ages sharing the same bedroom. I do not know if this is going to create some problems. The dryers and washers are located just on the floor and it seems kind of dangerous for the children. This is one of my concerns but there is no room for these washing machines and dryers so they will just be in one place. I have a lot of things to say but I am going to end it now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne, you have a question?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Before they built these two houses, did they talk to the people, ask the people of Grise Fiord about what they wanted in the houses when they built them?

MS OOLEESIE AKEEAGOK: No, there was nobody from the Housing Corporation talking to people. We are not sure whether the Housing Corporation was building these or somebody else.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Were you talking about the rehab houses or the two new houses?

MS OOLEESIE AKEEAGOK: (Translation) I was talking about the rehab houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) You could also mention the concerns you have regarding rehab houses that they are doing and the new houses that are being built. Anybody else want to voice their concerns? Paulosee. Can you say your name please?

MR. PAULOSEE NUNGAK: (Translation) Our house has not been rehabed yet but I think it will be rehabed this summer. I do not want it to be made smaller. There was an addition to the porch. If it is possible I would like to keep that addition in the house. My wife cannot walk so I hope the steps will be made so that my wife can go up and down by wheelchair. If it is possible I would like this to be done. I do not have that much to say but I want you to hear this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is this house going to be rehabed this summer?

MR. PAULOSEE NUNGAK: (Translation) They will let us know before they fix it up. Our secretary is not here right now but I think they will be rehabed this summer. I would like the steps made so that the wheelchair could be...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I have seen what he is talking about, his wife that cannot walk -- she can only move around by the wheelchair and when they rehab the houses they are really high up. This is what he was talking about. Mr. Nungak.

MR. PAULOSEE NUNGAK: (Translation) The height does not really matter to me. The only thing that I really wanted was for the steps to be lower. That is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I just wanted to mention that everything we are saying here tonight is recorded and when it gets written out, the Housing Corporation and the district office in Frobisher Bay will be getting copies of it. I have seen in other places in Cambridge Bay exactly what he is talking about. There is one rehab house with a wheelchair entrance and it works very well. I am sure that they get the copies of everything that is said here there will be no problems as it has been done in other places and I have seen it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Red. Anybody else who wants to voice their concerns? The reason you have to state your name is because we have to know who is bringing up their concern.

MR. PEEPEELEE PIJAMINI: (Translation) Peepeelee Pijamini is my name. My only remark is regarding the building they are staying at at the moment. There was some snow beside our porch all year long and I would like to know if anything can be done to correct that problem. Sometimes we cannot even close the door because of the snow. That is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. We should like to hear some more concerns. People who have already made their presentations can come up again. Mr. Flaherty.

MR. JOSAPHIE FLAHERTY: (Translation) I do not have very much to say. My name is Josaphie Flaherty. I was born in Port Harrison, northern Quebec. We just moved to a rehab recently and they are a lot warmer and I am not sure of what is going to be happening in future with that rehab so we will just wait. Also, the windows are beneficial to us because we can just open them when it gets warm inside and I really like the windows because it bothers me sometimes when there is a lot of smoking going on in the house. So, I like the windows when they can be opened. Also, even though I am not a carpenter I would like to say that when they were repairing the floor, I also could see that the room was a little bit more crowded than before and the level of the house was not even. So after they have did the construction on the floor they finally leveled the building and there are no more problems on our floor. That is all I have to say, I do not have anything more to bring up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any more? If there are no more presentations I think we will just have to adjourn the meeting.

MR. RAYMOND MERCREDI: My name is Raymond Mercredi and I have been living in Grise Fiord for the past five or so years. Myself, I do not really like the way they design the new houses. I think the slope on the ceilings is not really needed because up here, as you know, we do not get much snow and to me it is just a waste of space. As you know, on the rehabs -- some people in town have got them, the way that they built the rehabs was that they built from the inside one year. That way we lost four inches all around the house. This year, the way they are doing them, they insulated the house from the outside but they put a radiator around the house and we lost four inches again. Myself, I do not think that is a very good idea. The rooms are very small. Some of the rooms are eight feet around. I would like to see some bigger houses instead of losing space. I know in some houses there is about 10 people and some of the houses have extensions, I would like them to leave the extensions instead of breaking them off. That is about all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. (Translation) Any more remarks? I am very sorry that there are not enough people here. It is not your fault that there are few people but we were going to start earlier on our trip but since there have been some problems we were going to defer our trip. So at this late month we can really start attending to the problems and we have to visit other communities for some hearings. We will try and finish Baffin Region this month. Our aim is to hear any concerns or problems regarding the NWTHC or any rental houses from the people. Perhaps I will ask the last question. Are there any other remarks or presentations to be made? Mr. Nutara.

MR. ELIJAH NUTARA: (Translation) I would like to make another point. The NWT Housing Corporation in Yellowknife, when we have contracts through the NWTIC, it was the best situation because we had the money available to pay for employees but right now there are different contractors and there is no Inuit working on the rehabs. Our housing association has dealt with this matter and we would like to stress once again that NWT Housing Corporation should look for the best construction workers who would be available to construct new houses in the communities. We strongly feel the NWT Housing Corporation when they are selecting for the contracts they should get the best construction workers.

There was one situation here that the construction workers came up here and they did not even know how to read a blueprint and they did not even know how to build houses. I was one of the employees at that time and I created problems because I used to go to work at 8:00 o'clock and finish at 6:00 p.m. And after 15 days we used to get paid and I used to get \$700 for those two weeks and they were being paid by the hour and also I just finished for about three days and for those three days that I was off I was paid \$650. I tried to bring this up to the Housing Corporation in Frobisher but no changes were made. Prior to finishing my employment with the Housing Corporation, I could not get paid because the construction contractor owed too much money to the co-op and they had so many bills to pay and for that reason they were not able to pay the salaries. The Housing Corporation should try and look for the best possible available construction workers to build the houses or to build rehabs in the communities so that we would not have to start blaming the contractors if they make some mistakes. Thank you for allowing me to speak, to be able to come up to this table once more.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Do any of the Members wish to ask questions. Mrs Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: You mean to say they have contracts here in town and they are not hiring local people?

MR. RAYMOND MERCREDI: I think what Elijah is trying to say is that they had contractors in here that the corporation passed out a contract to some big contractors and it was subcontracted. The subcontractor did not know very much about construction and that is why the rehabs this year has taken them about 10 months to do. You see, some contractor did not know what he was doing and I think it would be a good idea if the corporation was to check out the contractor to make sure it does not happen again.

MRS. LAWRENCE: My question is, when they have a subcontractor do they hire local people or do they bring people into the community to do the work? Is that what the complaint was?

MR. RAYMOND MERCREDI: They hired local people.

MRS. LAWRENCE: They do hire local people sometimes but not all the time?

MR. RAYMOND MERCREDI: Well, if there is work for them to do then they are hired.

MRS. LAWRENCE: What Elijah said was that they used to hire local people but that they got contractors coming in who do not really know what to do and my question is, you mean to say they do not hire local people any more?

MR. RAYMOND MERCREDI: Well I think at this time of year it is very hard to get local people to work because it is summertime, we are just coming out of the dark season and I know for myself that once light comes around I do not feel like working, I do not work and that is why right now they are probably not hiring any people because they cannot get anybody to work.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Concerning rehabs, how would you feel if they are built during summer or winter -- which one do you feel would be better for the community, if they are built rehab during winter or summer?

MR. RAYMOND MERCREDI: As you know, during the wintertime it is dark here all the time. I feel that creates a big problem if you are working on rehabs because the ship arrives here in September

and by the time they get going on the rehabs it is winter and it is dark and, like they were saying, it is cold and it creates all kinds of problems. I just know from my work on the rehabs that it creates all kinds of problems. It would be better to start them in the springtime rather than in the winter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. (Translation) Questions from the Special Committee on Housing at the table here? Any further speeches or remarks, concerns from the floor, from the public audience?

MR. OOLEESIE AKEEAGOK: (Translation) Just one of the concerns I was going to bring up here is that I feel that if they start rehabs they should start in springtime because last year the ship came in around the middle of August and we had to move out of our old house and our family did not want to move from that house. Then they told us that they were going to complete the rehabs in one month and for that reason we decided to move out of our house and we waited nine months since they started the rehabs and it is going to be 10 months since they started on the rehabs. We have been told that next week we will be moving in, but that next week has been turning into months and for that situation it seems that the housing construction is very slow and for those reasons we feel the Housing Corporation should identify and look for the best possible construction workers that would be able to build or construct houses. That was one of our main problems when they first started the rehabs. When they first started, the contractors came in and they started on the rehab but then the inspector came along and decided to tear down the house, right down to scratch one, and they have to build that same house again and that was one of our main problems that arose during our rehabs this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the committee here? The floor is now open to anybody. No further statements or comments.

MR. JOSAPHIE KIGUKTAK: (Translation) My name is Josaphie Kiguktak. I just want to make a few comments. I am the chairman of the housing committee in Grise Fiord. We have quite a problem right now. The smaller houses that are being rehabbed have smaller bedrooms and then the newer houses that are up on the hill have two bedrooms. The Housing Corporation has told us that the houses that have more bedrooms will have more people, this was set up by the housing committee.

The people that are going into the rehab houses have stated that they do not like the spaces in the rehab houses because they get smaller. I believe in the concerns of these people about the space because they are keeping up with their rents, and their living room areas, some are too small when they have more bedrooms added. The bigger families want to move into bigger houses that have more bedrooms. We will just have to tell them, because we were told that the houses that have fewer bedrooms have to have less people in them, even though they are bigger than the smaller houses that have more bedrooms that has been rehabbed. This has been creating problems with us.

We have had requests for houses for a long time, but we were not able to get one, we can not get any approval. If we are not able to get any houses maybe we can put additional living spaces for these rehab houses in the future, if we are not going to be given any new houses. This is what I wanted to say, I just want to say that I think it would be better if the rehab houses could have additions and it would be better if the living room spaces could be bigger and there would be more people in these rehab houses. This is all I wanted to say, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the committee? Thank you. Mr. Pijaman.

MR. LOOTY PIJAMINI: (Translation) I just want to make addition to what Mr. Kiguktak said. If the houses cannot be made bigger, I think the rehab houses are not too bad if the bedrooms could be made a little bigger.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the committee? Mr. Pijamini.

MR. ABRAHAM PIJAMINI: (Translation) My name is Abraham Pijamini. From the things I am hearing I just want to support the people here. I have been living here in Grise Fiord for many years, first I came in 1962 -- since 1962. I just want to give you a little bit of history of the community.



In 1962, I did not see one house besides the RCMP houses, they were the only erected houses when I came. In the spring of 1962 the school was built. The people just started to come in then to Grise Fiord. It was very good when they started to get houses here because people had a long winter to go through, and later on the houses were built in the winter.

We also experienced in the construction, that they were having problems with the levelling or the foundation of the houses that they were building in the fall. Regarding that matter there has to be some problems on the foundation as you have heard earlier. So I would like to comment on that again. Since we have a problem of that kind I would like to answer the Chairman's remarks or his question as to where would be the best place to build a house in our area. I understand that we would probably experience many problems in our community, so I would like to say that the sealift usually comes in late fall, so that is when we receive the wood, finally.

I also would like to express concern about the small space that is being built in the rehabs -- the first did not have any problems. When the sealift came and the wood arrived, it was delivered right next to the old house and when the daylight was coming around and the warmth was coming around the people were also going out camping. At that time the construction workers did not have so much difficulty rehabing the houses because the family living in that house, was out camping. So I would like to see these rehabs started in the spring, and I think it would be a lot easier for the construction workers to build in the summer while the people are out camping, and when the fall comes and when the people come back to the community they can just move into the rehabs and in summer they would not have so much difficulty trying to move into somebody's house or somewhere to get away from the construction workers. That is what I am trying to say to the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the Members? Thank you very much.

A SPEAKER (male): I also have a question. If there is a person who owns a house who would be responsible for electricity, fuel and water delivery, regarding those who would be the best person to bill? Would it be the GNWT or the housing association in Grise Fiord?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) To my understanding and in my experience the person who owns the house has to pay his own bills to the people delivering fuel and for the electricity it would be NCPG. If there is water delivery being made to that home the person would have to pay to the owner. Would any of the Members like to answer that question?

A SPEAKER (male): If the person has to pay to the GNWT there would be a lot of money involved and if the person is paying his bills to the housing association it would be a lot cheaper. I wanted to know if any of you Members have any ideas on those too.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) A person who owns a house, is not being looked after by NWTHC or any housing association. The person who owns the house is responsible for his building. I do not think I quite understand, perhaps one of the Members can answer you more correctly. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: In my area, I do not think about the Eastern Arctic but in the Western Arctic anyone who has a house of their own, they have to pay their own power to the NCPG themselves and for delivery of water usually the local contractors deliver water and sometimes you get yours delivered for minimum fee and for fuel you have to pay for your own fuel as well if you are living in your own house. I do not know anything about the power, it is probably the same.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence.

A SPEAKER (male): Thank you for your answer. So, I have thought about building a house. I was wondering who would be responsible for the rents? I have no idea of who I am going to pay for the delivery of the services, so now I understand what I am to do when I finish my house. Those are all the questions I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Also the people that own their own houses have to pay bills for their heat and in the Western Arctic the people that own their own houses use wood because they have trees so that they can lower their bills for heat. Any more comments? Mr. Pijamini.

MR. PIJAMINI: (Translation) I believe what you just said is that the people who live on the treeline do not do that. I have heard that the people who own their own houses, when they have a hard time paying their bills they sometimes move back to the housing associations buildings. The reason why I am asking this question is because I want to know ahead of time how it is to own a house, how it is to pay your bills when you have your own house. The people would supplement their own heat. Because we have no trees here in the Eastern Arctic. We will have to use nothing but gas, so this is how I am looking at heating my house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I think you will be the first one to own your own house in Grise Fiord, and you will be paying for the heat and if you can not pay your bills anymore then you are cut-off these posts and maybe that can help you heat the house.

MR. PIJAMINI: (Translation) I do not think I will do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I am just kidding.

---Laughter

MRS. LAWRENCE: Can I say something?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MR. LAWRENCE: I would suggest that if you are going to build your own home, to put lots of windows, and make sure you have alot of insulation. If you have holes, you may lose a lot of heat. Make sure you have enough insulation so you do not have to lose too much fuel.

MR. PIJAMINI: Yes, I understand what you said. Thank you. I will keep in mind what you said, I do not know if I will be able to do that because of the money situation. I will see how I will be dealing with that and perhaps you will hear of what happened to the house I will be living in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I have seen people in public housing in my area and they are experiencing a lot of problems. I would encourage anybody to build their own home, you will be better off in the long-run if you own your own home, because of the experience that I saw with renting housing from the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: The question I would like to ask is when you are building your own home are you getting any help from the Housing Corporation or are you getting anybody to help you build your home or are you doing it all on your own?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you. I am not thinking about building a house. I was given my house as a present for my service with the RCMP, so the building was already given to me. I have seen it and it seems very good, the insulation is very thick so it is probably one that will use the least fuel in Grise Fiord. I will not be building a house, but what I would like to say at this time is thank you to those people who have given me a house as a gift. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Do you understand that? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Maybe someone could answer this question. For instance, if somebody built a house in Grise Fiord what assistance would they get from the Housing Corporation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) The question you brought up will probably be difficult to answer. However, is there someone in the audience here who knows? They could come up to the mike. If the secretary was here, you would probably get your answer. Also I would like to, along with committee Members -- the communities which are not on the treeline, maybe we as a committee can find out whether the wood could be shipped up into the communities for home-ownership. That might be even cheaper from fuel consumption buildings and we could have that for consideration. It might be cheaper for the community if they get their wood from down South and we will try and find out if this will be feasible or if it would not be as good as using fuel for dwellings. Also in this area

there is coal and we will try and find out if any of these will be more beneficial to home-ownership than fuel consumption heating systems. Questions from reports or from my colleagues here? Would anyone from the audience like to go up to the table?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) That question seems to be directed to me, so I am just experimenting now whether it would be better with home-ownership but then I will try and find out whether problems will arise in the future once I move into the house. So, if it is possible I will try and get assistance to get some wood or anything that will be cheaper to bring up to heat our house, whether it be wood or coal, it would be cheaper than fuel. Then if that is the case, we would consider the situation. If that is the case, who would I give my comments to?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We will investigate that situation and we will probably give you an answer in the near future. Are there anymore comments to be made from the public? At this time I would like to thank you very much, even though the majority of the people are not here you have made yourselves available and given your presentation and you have welcomed us. As you know this is our first meeting as a special committee on the issue and I fully support our meeting here tonight. We will deal with the comments that you have made and we will be dealing with other communities concerned. At this time I would like to thank you once again for being able to bring your concerns to this meeting, and we are hoping that in the future we will be able to make better recommendations for better housing situations in the NWT. I would like to ask any Member on the committee if they have any closing remarks or whether they would like to make their last statements from the committee at the table here? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to say to the people, thanks for coming to our meeting and this is our only chance to view your concerns because I do not think we will be coming back here again, because we have a lot of communities to cover. So I would just like to say thank your for coming here and for enjoying our short stay. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Again, I would like to thank you for coming, and if any of you think of anything else, you can write a letter to the committee. And for any people with concerns that were not here tonight, they can write us a letter and we can also learn about your concerns that way. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Anyone else? Thank you. The hearing in Grise Fiord is now adjourned. Mahsi Cho.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

RESOLUTE BAY, JUNE 4, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I think we can start the meeting. We are the Special Committee on Housing visiting the community of Resolute. The Special Committee on Housing consists of six elected MLAs and four alternate MLAs appointed by the Legislative Assembly in February 1984, to investigate the concerns of people in the communities regarding housing. The committee will also interview the operation of the NWT Housing Corporation.

First of all I would like to introduce the committee Members. You all know me, I am Ludy Pudluk. The one on the far left is Mike Ballantyne, he is elected for Yellowknife North; on my left is Joe Arlooktoo, he is representing Baffin South; and to my right is John T'Selele representing Sahtu; and behind him is Eliza Lawrence, Tu Nedhe constituency; and last Red Pedersen, he is representing Kitikmeot West, he is from Kitikmeot Region. These are the Special Committees on Housing Members. I would like to thank the community council for their invitation to have the special committee visit and hold a public meeting. The committee will hold a public hearing in Baffin communities. During the next six months over 40 communities will be visited and the NWT Housing Corporation will be also reviewed by the committee. The interim report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this fall, possibly in November. The final report will contain recommendations based on community hearings in NWTHC reveal. It is to go to the communities and those recommendations are to make improvements in the housing at the community level.

The community hearings are the first step in finding out what people would like to see happen with housing. Of course it will not be possible to make any promises about what the committee would be able to do. The committee has to consider the housing situation throughout the NWT and look at where the money would come from and any changes it might suggest. The committee has a responsibility to make sure that the recommendations it makes are realistic and positive, recommendations that would self-act at least some of the major problems we are now dealing with. Therefore we welcome your suggestions for improvement and encourage you to share your views with us.

For the benefit of the MLAs from the West, we would like to ask MLA Members from the West to give us a brief summary of how housing has been delivered to their communities in the past. We would also like to hear from the board members of the housing association about your work with organizing, and also the district office of the NWTHC. If you would like to speak, please step up to the microphone at the table, please tell us your name for the record. The interpreters will translate your remarks simultaneously and your comments will also be recorded so that the transcripts of the hearing can be produced. Also I would like to stress that the headsets used for translation are fragile so we ask that you not allow your kids to play with them. I will stop here for now and let the MLA from the West continue. Mr. Mike Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Thank you for inviting us to your beautiful community. Mr. Pudluk took us out seal hunting today, we had a really good day in the bright sunshine. People have been very friendly and made us feel very welcome. Ludy Pudluk is a very good and a very hard working MLA and he looks after your community in the Legislative Assembly. It was his idea to form this housing committee. If it improves the housing situation, he deserves a lot of credit. We western MLAs welcome the opportunity to visit Baffin and talk to the people of the Baffin. So we can better understand the problems with housing in the Eastern Arctic. There are some problems in the West which are different from the East but I think many of the problems are the same. We have much to learn from you and we really appreciate being invited to Resolute Bay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Are there any more comments from the Members? I would like to make an additional remark. Since I was elected we have been trying to solve problems on housing matters. I did not feel right trying to solve all the problems by myself and the Members have also felt the same way when they are trying to deal with the housing matters in their constituencies. For those reasons we decided to form a special committee consisting of six members so that we can hear your concerns or problems regarding the housing matters. And also in 1972, the Housing Corporation moved to Northwest Territories and since that time they have been very hard to deal with and seems like that organization is being operated by two governments, the federal government and by the Government of the NWT. Perhaps that is where the problem comes in, in dealing with that organization. So we would like your concerns and problems and also we will record them. I know we will not answer specific questions. I would like to stress to you we are not working for the NWTHC but we are working with you. So therefore I would like you to bring up your experiences in housing matters and your problems and concerns. We would appreciate any of your remarks. We will just leave the floor open to the people and if we have any questions we will direct them to you and if anybody wants to bring up their concerns, please do not feel bad to come to the table and please state your name and speak slowly for the benefit of interpreters. The table is now open. If nobody wants to speak we can finish the meeting. Mr. Nungak.

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: My name is Phillip Nungak. I think it is better if I speak English because I have them written down in English. I am not too sure exactly what I should say but if I get out of line I hope you guys will tell me to get in line. I have lived in Resolute Bay since about 1955. Perhaps a little history will be in order. When people first got here they used to build their own houses out of scrap lumber and things like that, that they could get from the air force when it was still up here. Each family used to build their own houses, and I suppose they had some pride in building their own houses. That way they took care of it better. Then in about the early 1960s they were given government rental houses, where they live now.

I think the allocation of cheap rental houses has been some kind of source to laziness among young people because they live in nice, warm heated houses nowadays. But people will need time to get out of this mentality. In my opinion, I think the Housing Corporation may owe a lot more to the people of the North than people who owe them some rental money. This system of housing has got some advantages and disadvantages, I believe. One of the advantages may be better housing, one of the disadvantages could be that there is too much control by government agencies in building houses and allocating houses. Right now I will just point out some problems that I see with the housing associations and the Housing Corporation.

Number one, is the housing association in Resolute Bay can only have on its board of directors anyone who has no debts to the association. That sometimes leaves very few people that are eligible to be on the board, including those that are not likely to be elected to the board under other circumstances. I think any member of the housing association should be able to be elected to the board. I think that is one by-law of the housing association or Housing Corporation that should be changed that anyone should be able to be on the board of directors.

Number two, I think the housing association board of directors should be a committee of the hamlet or settlement council. That way the board would be more responsible to the people it is supposed to serve.

Number three, permanent residents of the NWT who would be using the houses should have more say on the design of the houses. That way they could have a lot of input into the kind of houses that they live in.

Number four, in support of home-ownership, individuals or families should be provided with building materials such as planks, two-by-fours, plywood, insulation, windows, doors and roofing material, rather than getting prefabricated materials as they did before. They should be encouraged to build their own houses. That way they may not build the houses like the Weber houses that have been the centre of many complaints like dripping ceilings and drafty windows and doors.

Number five, the Housing Corporation should be a lot more accountable to the people it is supposed to serve, like the Baffin Region Inuit Association or the Baffin Regional Council. To my knowledge the Housing Corporation has never attended any meetings of the BRIA or the BRC even though they have been asked to attend these kinds of meetings.

Number six, local people should be employed more in housing construction when people from other places get contracts to build houses up in the North. I believe this number six was going to be

looked into by Baffin Regional Council at the last BRC meeting in Frobisher Bay and I do hope that they get some place with it. That is about all I have to say for now. I might have things to say later on. Thanks for your time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Phillip. Could you sit there for a few minutes. I am going to ask the special committee if they have any questions. Any questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a very good presentation and that is what we need -- some ideas. But one of your points, the idea that the association should be more accountable to the settlement council. How would you see that done? Would you see the settlement council appointing the association? How would you suggest you could do that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Nungak.

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: The way I think it should be is some kind of a committee to the settlement or hamlet council. That way they would be accountable to the settlement or hamlet council so that if somebody had any complaints about housing somebody could tell the settlement council, for example. That way I think the housing association board would be a lot more responsible to the people. Does that answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. What I was just wondering, would you like to see them elected at large or appointed by the settlement council?

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: I would like to see them elected, but as I stated in my complaint number one, that everybody should be eligible to be on the board of directors, now if a person owes too much money to the housing association then they are not eligible to be on the board. I would like to see them elected.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I would like to just clarify that number one point, that if you owe money on your rent you are not eligible to be on the board. Who says so?

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: In the last annual general meeting of the housing association we were informed that anybody who owes too much money or some money to the housing association they were not eligible to be on the board. I think that is one of their by-laws. That is what we were told.

MR. PEDERSEN: That is certainly not the case in other communities I know of. In Coppermine where I come from I happen to know that a number of the members of the board of directors have substantial arrears and as far as I know, it is not a Housing Corporation policy, it may be a regional policy. Perhaps we can check into that when we get to Frobisher later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Pedersen. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to stress on this matter since this incident happened in Lake Harbour too. Because whoever owes money to the housing association they were not eligible to be on the board for the housing association. However, our housing association did some investigating and we found out that it is not a by-law and it is not in the regulations. The way we are set up in Lake Harbour now is that anybody who has a substantial amount of money owing to the Housing Corporation, we do not let them be eligible to be on the housing association boards. That is our own community by-law we have set up, but we know it is not written on law stating that. Probably some of these matters have been dealt with within the Baffin Region and I do not think that it would be too difficult to deal with that matter within the community because I think that if the community has a small population then I feel that it would be necessary to have any person to be eligible to be on the board of the housing association. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment on your number one concern on members not being on the board when they have arrears. That law is sometimes set by the regional

office because in my area they have that same policy for the local people and it is even on a little pamphlet that comes from the district office saying that anyone who owes money is not to be on the board. So I think that is a concern of a lot of communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of other points you made that were quite good. In Grise Fiord we heard the problem about consultation with the community before houses are designed. Before the Housing Corporation designs a new house now do they come and talk to the housing association and ask your ideas?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Mr. Nungak.

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: Do you ask if the Housing Corporation consults with the housing association on what kind of design they want? To my knowledge, I do not know, I do not think they ever did consult the housing association on what kind of design they want.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Another one, the reason I am asking so many is that you brought up some of the very important points that we are going to have to deal with and it is helpful to us to clarify because you are very good. You said you support home-ownership. Now if the government supplied building materials as you said, who should pay for the heat and the light and oil?

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: Looks like the people who owned the building should pay for heat and the fuel and things like that but perhaps be subsidized by the government.

MR. BALLANTYNE: In the West, where there is home-ownership programs that is true. Do you think people here would be prepared if they got the materials to pay for the heat, light and oil?

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: In the case of Resolute, perhaps they would be interested in getting some materials for houses but as you might notice there is quite a few vacant houses in Resolute. In that case maybe not too many people would want to build their houses at this point right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: One more question. It is to deal with employment during construction or rehab of houses? Do southern contractors or the government offer any training programs for the people here so they can learn the skills to build a house.

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: I do not know anybody who has been trained to build houses from Resolute. Complaint number six was more in support of other communities that might be building houses in the near future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more comments from the committee. Eliza.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Do they have home-ownership programs around here?

MR. PHILLIP NUNGAK: I think it is available here if somebody wants it.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, that is all I wanted to know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions from the committee? (Translation) Mr. Nungak, I would like to thank you at this time and you may be back at the table again. Thank you. We would like to hear all kinds of concerns. Mr. Levi Nungak.

MR. LEVI NUNGAK: My name is Levi Nungak and I am originally from northern Quebec. I am going to be giving some remarks and some questions. I have been chairman for a while but through that experience I have seen a lot of people who have to pay for their houses. Some of the buildings for the houses are not well maintained by the NWTHC. I have also heard of all sorts of problems and up to now some houses are well maintained now by the board. However, I have never seen a new house

built in Resolute. While I was in Frobisher, I was staying at a rehab house which was really nice and I am not sure of what kind of building that was. The rehab was designed that I did not recognize the house because it was built on the outside and in the interior -- so we all know that there are a lot of unused houses in Resolute. I am not sure if we do need rehabs. That is what I wanted to say for my part. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Can you stay there for a minute? Maybe one of the Members may have a question. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Resolute there are quite a few houses that are not being occupied. I would like to know if the houses were renovated, would the people like to move into those houses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Nungak.

MR. LEVI NUNGAK: Yes, I think we will have to do some consulting with the housing association or the Housing Corporation and I am not sure now of what the people want because I am no longer chairman for the association. So I cannot really answer that question. Perhaps the chairman can put remarks on that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Well done. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I also wanted to ask about the empty houses that we see when we walk around. But I guess the man already answered that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is that a question? Any question from the special committee? (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Nungak. Are there any more people from the audience who want to come up to the table? Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is George Eekalook. I am also the chairman for the housing association in Resolute for the past two years. First of all, the question that was directed to the person, I would like to answer that regarding the houses that are not being used. There are quite a few houses that are vacant, there are eight of them. I just can answer that the housing association was not functioning very well as it should be and there were not enough people to move into the houses so they have to cut off the power and stop delivering the water to the empty houses. We have water delivery through, up high from the lakes so they had to shut off those pipes and after that we know that when the houses are being shut down they are not in better shape so we are going to be trying to get those houses occupied in order that they will function properly. We all know that because we live up here and know what to do with the houses and so they had to shut off the houses on order from the district office. So I think he shut them off because they were using a lot of money and right now we do not have any budget to maintain the buildings and some of the pipes have exploded because of being frozen. So we will try our best to reopen the houses for use. That is our aim now. Did I answer that question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are you finished? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I just want to ask you if the reason that these eight houses are empty is because there is not enough people to fill them. Is that what you are saying?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to say that the last housing association did not function very well and they keep bugging us about the debts that have to be paid and that they are not going to take any more people due to the money owed. There were about two or three families in one building, but in the past we have heard that the people or the families are not allowed to go into those empty houses because they owe a lot of money. We are trying our best to keep our people happy and NWTHC had said in the past that one house should not be full other than husband and wife. So we are not happy about not moving in because we owe a lot of money. Mr. Chairman, we are just going to go ahead and open the vacant houses because they are just waiting for people. We thought it would be a lot better if those houses were opened because we would not have to look after the plumbing, the maintaining of those houses when they are not being used. So at this moment the Department of Public Works has to put some heat into those houses.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I just want to mention to the committee that there were more people here in the community but they started moving to other settlements and those houses that were occupied were in very bad shape and there was no money to renovate those houses that were vacant. The children are now grown up and they are asking for houses. So therefore they want to renovate these vacant houses so that the people can get houses, but there is no money in the housing association to renovate. I just wanted to make it clear.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: I still have quite a bit of comments I would like to say. First of all, I just want to make addition to what Philip said. In the beginning of the 1960s the housing were being built here in Resolute. I think we Inuit made a mistake because we didn't understand very much and that is why we lost these houses that we had built. And the reason we are spending money now is because we made a mistake at that time and up to today, because the rents are going sky high. So that is why, I have heard, that the rents are getting higher because DPW house rents are going up and we have to follow these. I do not think it has to be that way. I do not think we have to follow the rate of the DPW rent for this reason. The houses that belong to DPW are occupied by the people that have a good job and are making good money and they have less furniture and their furnitures and their beds, rugs are already in the houses and the housing association does not provide that. The people that rent from the housing association they are not all working.

If the Housing Corporation will follow the DPW rates and the people that live in housing association houses will be paying a lot of money because they are following the rates of DPW and the people who are renting from the housing association are not making the same salary as the people of DPW. That is why Housing Corporation were putting the rents higher and I do not think it has to be like that because these people are working all the time and have money to pay for their rent. When we are like that too it would be okay because some of these houses have no furniture that belongs to housing association and the occupants do not always work and this is the case.

On the second one, the main concern is regarding rent you probably won't understand what I say but I know and I saw because we pay for our rents according to the salary that we make. I do not think the pension and the family allowance should be included in that rent scale. I do not think this is proper, I think this is going to have to be rectified sometime in the future.

And the third one, I just want to make an addition regarding the housing association board of directors. As we heard, there is not too many people in the communities and when there is an election for the board of directors we have a hard time filling the vacant seats. We thought it would be okay, even if the people owe some money to the housing association, that they should be able to come to the board of directors. The secretary to the manager in Frobisher has to move because there is not enough people in town. We will try to think about this problem that we have at the next election.

My last concern that I want to express is, the housing association board of directors are given so much money, after so many months they are given some payments and they are not always running the operation, it is run by the people in Frobisher. I think as a board of directors, we should be able to have a say as how to use this money. I think it should be given to us so that we can use it as we see fit. When we want to do something to the houses we have to go to Frobisher and ask for what we want to do and there is never enough money for what we want to do. I think we should be given money for what we want to do. We are given a certain amount of money but it is not always enough. I am trying to say that the things that we want are sometimes expensive but if they are expensive we have to go through Frobisher before we can do anything. Mr. Chairman, I do not have anything more right now but if there are any questions from the head table I will be available and I will make some more comments later on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the head table. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a very good presentation. I understand there are eight vacant houses now. If you can fix up those eight houses, how many more houses would you need for the people here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, we will try to renovate all of these eight houses before fall, before it gets too cold, so that the people that need housing -- I think there will be enough houses for those people who have been asking for houses. The Housing Corporation has

stated that they will not make new houses for this year. This is our understanding. I think the eight houses after they have been renovated will be enough. For those who want to rent it would be okay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is what do the people think of the rents of these houses. I think they may be scaled for the rent either 25 or 50 per cent and I wonder how it is set up in Resolute.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) There are some people that are not working in town and according to the people that are working right now we use the Baffin scales. But we know that the house rents are going too high, but for us as a board of directors we cannot figure out the rent scales and we are not too happy with this because we have to follow the DPW rent scales and this is not agreeable to us and it creates problems. People say that our rents are too high but I don't think we can rectify this right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I understand that it will be different payments for different situations even in the Baffin Region. Allocations to people who are unemployed, are they using the lowest minimum scale that is available to them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, the unemployed people are also paying different rent scales because some of the people who are paying rent are being subsidized by Social Services, however the people who have good jobs always pay the highest amounts toward rent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would like to ask a question too. First of all I would like to use an example of a government employee having to sign an agreement to move to staff housing and that same person is paying, even though there is another person staying in that same building they are not allowed to pay. However, if a person is on a rental housing then all of the people who are inside that house, who earns salary, have to use a higher rent scale. In agreement with that situation how would you feel if that was the case?

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I am not too clear on the question you are asking me. Are you trying to ask whether these government employees -- maybe you can clarify that question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Yes, any person who is a government employee and using staff housing, even though there is more than one person staying in that staff house and earning salary, then the only person who signed an agreement with the government to move to that staff housing is the only person paying rent to that staff house. However, if somebody is staying in rental housing and he is employed and there is another person who is also employed and making a salary, then they combine those two employees salaries together and then they set the scale from that gross of those two employees salaries. Do you agree with that if that was the situation?

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) For that reason I try to make it clear that -- I am going to use a person who is staying in one house, for example our family, me, my wife and my children, we are all working and we are living in rental housing we would all be paying the rent scale of the total gross of these three people's salary. And also the gross salary, before they set the scale they have to add the family allowance and also the old age pension toward the rent scale that is set up. Our understanding too toward government, is that even though man and wife are both working and they are staying in staff housing then only one would be paying for the percentage of the salary. That will never be fair for the Inuit up here. Am I clear, can you understand me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any further questions from the table on the special committee? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: My question is the Housing Corporation will build 250 houses this year and the corporation decides how many houses each community will get. Do you think that the way that they do it now is fair and if you don't do you have any ideas how to make it better?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I understand your question. There is a lot of people who have been asking for housing and the Housing Corporation -- when we have meetings in Frobisher Bay we have already seen how they have selected these houses to be moved to that certain community. For example, as in Resolute Bay, we request five houses and in Grise Fiord they also requested five houses too and in Pond Inlet, the population in Pangnirtung and also Igloodik, those communities also would want houses too and then its up to the Housing Corporation to see which communities should be receiving houses. However, in the last regional housing association meeting we felt that in the Baffin Region they have annual general meetings, they have to have this twice a year but because of funding they have once a year regional meetings then it will be better if the communities have input as to where the houses should be located and that way there will not be conflict between the Housing Corporation and us and we can work together closely because I know that there is 13 communities and they all want housing. Right now we finally start to see where the Housing Corporation have already located these houses, as to where they should be located. What I am trying to say is we should be involved to set up where the houses should be moved into in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: That is what I was getting at and I think it is a good solution. So, for an example, if the Housing Corporation told you that they have 100 houses, for example for the Baffin Region and at your regional meeting 13 communities would decide where the houses would go and tell the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Yes, that would be the best solution especially to us because it is very difficult when the houses are already allocated to different communities because you only see them when it is already set up. You try and rush an order for this community and when you see that plan and start seeing that Pond Inlet will be getting a house before us -- for those reasons it would be best if the communities should set up where the houses should be going because we know that every year there is going to be houses built in different regions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further questions? I would like to thank you at this time, if you would like to come back to the table later on you may do so. I do not have anything right now. Mr. Nungak.

MR. LEVI NUNGAK: (Translation) When I was the chairman for the association in Resolute we had to shut off electricity to some of those houses that were not occupied and right now we have had to open all the houses and let them be available to the people of Resolute. Do you think we have possibility of just going ahead with our plan, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I did not quite understand your question. Are you trying to say that these houses should be closed for good?

MR. LEVI NUNGAK: (Translation) I will give you a point that the electricity was shut off so if there is an application for a house, we will have to set up the electricity and other maintenance. Should we open the houses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you asking me? We are not here to answer questions we are here to direct questions.

MR. LEVI NUNGAK: (Translation) I thought you were the people to ask.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Sorry, we are not from the Housing Corporation. We can direct the question to the Housing Corporation and we will investigate that question.

MR. LEVI NUNGAK: (Translation) That is all the remarks I have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Mr. Jesudason.

MR. BEZAL JESUDASON: My name is Bezal Jesudason and I am private citizen here and also a private businessman. First of all, as you probably already know, there are three types of housing available in Resolute Bay: one is the staff housing, its the government people living in those, there are probably about six staff houses right now; and there is close to 30 that belong to the Housing Corporation, I think seven or eight are occupied; and there is about four private homes in this town, two are occupied totally by private people and the third one is owned by the local co-op and the fourth one is owned by the Anglican Mission.

Now, the point that I, and my fellow Resolute citizens, would like to bring out is that the staff housing -- which I believe is costing somewhere between \$1500 and \$2000 per month to maintain, and then the staff who normally lives in those houses pay a very nominal reasonable rent of between \$300 and less than \$500. But like Mr. Eekalook was saying earlier, these people are very well paid and they all get the special northern allowance which is nearly \$5000 extra for living in Resolute and then they are only paying -- let's say between \$400 and \$500 for a big house. In other words, the government is subsidizing more than a \$1000 a month to maintain this house.

Then there are the Housing Corporation houses, with a rent scale I believe scheduled anywhere from \$48 to less than \$500 a month, again depending on income which is fair probably for the people with lower income.

My point is as a private home-owner, is that we have no help from the government in anyway. I am not expecting the government to give me any money to own my own house but it is costing more than \$1200 a month to maintain my house. For example, the electricity in Resolute Bay is costing close to 38 cents per kilowatt and I lose nearly 3000 kilowatts a month. So you can imagine that for that alone, it is over a \$1000 a month, just for electricity. However, if I take a government job as a janitor in the school or perhaps a mechanics job, the government will pay me, I think it is somewhere around \$750 a month to look after my own house. But as a totally independent private home-owner, we do not get any help. Maybe the board could look into this, I don't really like handouts from the government, I don't want them to pay me any money, but they could perhaps try to look into the prices of fuel and electricity which is no fault of mine, that I have to pay so much. They could perhaps bring it to standards like Edmonton or Montreal where they pay less than four cents a kilowatt. Here it is close to 38 cents, which is almost 12 times more for electricity. Fuel prices are not bad it is only about 67 cents a litre which I would say is reasonable, however it is probably still taxed. So I would ask the government or whoever is responsible to look into it and perhaps reduce the price increase for people like myself, so that it won't cost us so much to live here. Because for any human being, first you want food which of course the price of food is very high -- I am sure you are not here to hear about the food prices, but then next comes shelter, that is housing, then there is energy costs, like the transportation of fuel and the diesel generator power.

So that is one of main concerns as a private home-owner. I would like the board and the government to look into this and perhaps give us some initiative as private home-owners so we can build our own homes and it won't cost the government hundreds of thousands of dollars in the capital budget. Like Mr. Ballantyne was saying if 250 houses are being built by the Housing Corporation in the Eastern Arctic that means it is costing the government about \$25 million or more -- that money in the bank would give you many million dollars of interest. So why can you not use that interest to pay for these other costs or look into it and at the same time create private home-ownership. Who will invest the money -- not the Housing Corporation.

I hope I made my point clear. Right now if you do not work for the government or if you do not work for the big corporation there is no initiative for private home-owners to build any houses to live in the North. It is a totally government operated situation. So if you have any questions I will be glad to discuss them with you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: It is a very good point. The problem is that there are so many people in the North who work for the government, and there is not very much incentive for people in private enterprise. A couple of things that are happening, is for two years I worked in a tax committee and as you said, if you are a government employee and you own your own home you get \$450 a month tax free, and if you are not a government employee and you own your own home, you get nothing. What we are working on is a form of a cross-the-board credit for people whether they work for the government or private industry, so we can be fair for everybody who lives up here. The territorial government is prepared a report, called the Bird Report. Have you seen it, if not I can get a copy for you. So we are making some efforts in that area.

The second problem we are talking about is the high cost of power and fuel. The reason power is so expensive in most of the Northwest Territories is mostly because of diesel power in most places and it is very expensive to ship it. Probably the only way we are going to do anything about that is to get some revenue sharing from the federal government on our oil and gas reserves up here, so that we can make oil and gas available to people in the North. Hopefully it will be a lot cheaper than it is now.

MR. BEZAL JESUDASON: This \$450 you said is given to government employees if they own their own home. I am not sure if it is tax free in other places but in this town I know for a fact that if you own your own home, like one of our field service officer who recently moved to Frobisher Bay, owned a home and he was getting \$750 a month, but I guess he has to pay tax, that is extra on top of his own fat salary that he was getting. Apart from that we agree and we know that because of the high cost of diesel generated power it is very expensive. But the whole idea is that we have no choice, more or less there is no hydro here unless the government installs some windmills or something like that, but in the period in between, until the natural resources are dealt out we will be expected to pay this high rate.

Northern Canada Power Commission is supposed to be a non-profit organization and they want to make profit for selling power -- I do not have to make any profit in Resolute. But they should be made aware that they can have two or three different rates for private home-owners, perhaps it is cheaper than the government because it is already tax-paid dollars that they are getting. But I totally agree with what you said about natural resources because I was at a place north of Rae Point where Panarctic Oil is using, for the first time, some of the natural gas that they have and they say they are saving over \$10,000 per day. We are so near to all these fossil fuels and natural gas -- we should be able to get some of it to make our costs low here.

Personally, I am sick and tired of hearing about the studies and recommendations because nothing seems to happen. I would like to see some action for a change. I am sure you are sick and tired of hearing all this bitching and complaining from different people in different communities but I would like to see some action. I really appreciate you coming here and listening to us and I wish you would recommend something that somebody will listen to and take some action on immediately, because nothing ever happens. There are all these hearings and all these meetings, we have been attending meetings for years and nothing ever happens, so I wish you good luck in who you recommend your proposals to, I hope they listen to you and do something right away because it is almost hopeless going to meetings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I totally agree with you about the idea. As you come to a hearing like this -- when I was mayor of Yellowknife, I probably attended a hundred hearings, making no headway. It is very very slow. NCPC is a good example, we have been after them constantly and essentially the only way that is going to work is the federal government has to forgive -- they have a massive debt and a lot of it comes from inefficiency of \$200 million, so that 45 per cent...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne, could you please slow down.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Okay, I get excited when I talk about NCPC.

---Laughter

But 45 per cent of what you pay for power is paying off their debt. So the request is for the federal government to forgive the debt and let the Northwest Territories actually take over and control NCPC. We are having a hard time with that one, but we will keep on fighting. We understand your frustration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Jesudason on your concerns. We are here to take your views and concerns. You are so right when you say people have no incentive to try and own their own home. In fact they get penalized, sort of thing, because when you are working for the government you are subsidized and a lot of these people come in and naturally do not have to pay too much rent and then they leave after a few years. But the local people seem to get penalized because they are owning their own home, they do not get any subsidy whatsoever and it really does not make any sense to try and own your own home and at the same time they seem to be trying to discourage people from owning their own home and go into this low rental housing where their rent is going up high all the

time. So I am sure if you give us a chance to work on this, because we are only on our second hearing and your views and concerns on this will be taken very seriously. I live in an area too where the same thing happens all the time. Single parents with hardly any income and three children have to pay almost \$200 because they are not making \$900 a month washing floors. It is better off for them not to work, almost. So I know what you are talking about. Thanks for your concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Jesudason.

MR. JESUDASON: Thank you, for listening to us and carrying your message to poorer people who are willing to stay. We are kind of proud to have our own homes and we are not looking for handouts from the government either. We are quite proud and I am sure that a lot of Inuits who are sitting in this gathering this evening are the same, they would like to have their own homes and probably they won't take handouts, but as long as the government does not charge too much for fuel and electricity which in turn they are providing to us, if they innovate some subsidy or somehow untaxed privileges because that is what makes the cost so high. For example, many times I have been so discouraged I have wanted to move into public housing. With my type of earnings, I make very little money. With a business I probably will get up into the \$11,000 or so bracket and stop paying \$1000 for my house. So it is really disheartening to have my own home, it is frustrating and I think I have taken up enough of your time, so thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there anymore comments or concerns? Mr. Walter Aoudla.

MR. AOUOLA: (Translation) My name is Water Aoudla, I am one of the members of the housing association board of directors and I am also unemployed. Mr. Chairman, the question that you asked, I just want to make addition to it. The people that rent houses from the housing association, you were asking about their amount. As you know, before when I was working for Cominco I was making good money and I was with one of my sons, and we also have a male who is staying at our place and also is working at Cominco. I was going to bring the receipt of the money that I have paid for rent, my rent went up to \$900 for one month when I was working with the two gentlemen at the mines -- my son and this other guy. My wife was working for the nursing station, and when you put the salaries together, along with the family allowance -- so when you add all those incomes we had to pay \$900 a month. If you want to see the receipt I could give it to you. It states the amount I had to pay for rent per month. When you have so many people working in one house you have to add up that to pay for montly rent. I started owing some money because I could not keep up with the high rent and the two people that I work with were living in the household and they did not want to pay part of the rent.

I just heard that the government staff when they are renting a house, say for instance the teachers that come into the communities -- couples. When they both work they make around \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year and only one person out of those couples pay for rent. Thank you for letting us speak. And another thing I want to say is since I am on one of the board of directors -- as you are walking around in the communities the houses that were built in 1976, they look good on the exterior but the insides are rotten and they are not well made, and they have been like this for so many years. Even though there is not much funding available to the housing association and I am back with the housing association on the board of directors and I will work hard to rectify these mistakes. If I could be of help perhaps I can help the people as to renovations and whatnot and perhaps sometimes they will freeze up because sometimes our temperatures go down to 65. When you see these pipes under the ground they are not insulated and I have seen them underground. This is my main concern as to what should be fixed.

I am an employee for the housing association, if I had the same job as a person that works for DPW, I would be making around \$32,000 a year. Myself with the same job would be making around \$14,000 for the housing association. That person working for DPW would be able to go for a holiday, all expenses paid, and there is no way I can go for holidays anywhere in the communities even though I have relatives in northern Quebec. I cannot go to see them because my travel will not be paid by the housing association allowance. The other thing the NWT government staff gets is northern allowance and we do not get that from the housing association and this is very discouraging sometimes when you are working at the same job or doing the same thing. The housing association has nothing, no tools, no materials and there is no parts available from The Bay. So we try to work with what we got.

We just received a letter from the Housing Corporation stating that if we want to buy some tools or materials we have to go back to Frobisher before they can approve what we want. I would very much like for the Housing Corporation find some funding, to assist some funding so that the housing association could buy some tools or materials because the funding that they give us is not always enough for a year.

Also I ordered a table saw from Montreal and it was supposed to be shipped from Montreal by ship. When the Housing Corporation found out about this they returned what I ordered and up to today I still have not received this saw, I ordered it in 1980. Sometimes we have to go and borrow DPW's material because the housing association has no tools or materials. There are a lot of problems existing toward housing and these structures have to be rectified yet. When you see the public housing the exterior of the house is very nice, however, if you go to the top of the house the roof -- there is a hole all around the building and during the winter when there are winds, there is a lot of snow that is coming inside this building and us people who rent these houses will have to clean up the mess that this has created. Those are the concerns that I had and I would like to thank you at this time for allowing me to speak and if you have further questions I can try and answer them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I would like to ask, for the record you are not a member of the association but an employee under the housing association.

MR. AOUDLA: (Translation) That is correct. I am not a member of the housing association and was told that I am not eligible to be on the housing association due to the fact that I am an employee for housing, that was in the past but I don't know what the policy is right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would just like to clarify this matter to my fellow colleagues. Are there any questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am sorry, I might have missed it, what actually do you do with the housing association? What is your job?

MR. AOUDLA: (Translation) Plumbing, heating, and also I deal with furnaces and also I have certification for all of these trades. When I was working for Cominco they were recognized by the company but when I got back to the housing association they would not recognize my certificates.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify it, somebody doing the same job as you who works for DPW makes \$32,000 plus all his benefits and you make \$14,000. Is that right?

MR. AOUDLA: (Translation) Yes, that's true. Your question is exactly true.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I agree, it doesn't sound very fair to me either.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to get further clarification on one of the comments that you brought up concerning holiday travel. You told us that they don't pay for your travel. To my understanding, in southern Baffin they are allowed to go down to Montreal and return, travel expenses paid, and to my understanding if the Housing Corporation is going to treat everybody equal then it would seem fair that they allow you to go for holiday down to Montreal and return. Down in the southern part of the Baffin Region that is the situation but we will try and bring this concern of yours back to the Housing Corporation and I am going to fully support that idea of getting travel benefits for holidays.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I think the Housing Corporation is treating us unfairly, especially in the High Arctic and that is the reason we set up this committee, in order to recognize or find out exactly what problems and what unfairness there is toward housing association employees. So in that case we would like to hear any concerns or problems that arises toward housing. It seems clear too that we have a lot of these meetings and nothing really is -- nothing ever exists -- it is difficult to understand what the government is trying to do, sometimes they are very difficult to deal with and sometimes they are very soft to deal with. For that reason we want to have these hearings and try and make some changes for the future.

In order for us to run our own affairs especially in the Arctic. There will be some people who are going to start complaining that you have a lot of meetings but no action is being taken, but that is not going to be our case, we are just going to keep pushing forward and try to tell government how they should be operating in the future. Is there any further questions from my colleagues at the head table? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just want to comment on what you are saying. I understand fully that one of reasons why we formed this committee because a lot of people in the communities felt that the housing association was not treating them fairly and I am still going to say again that we are going to be making so much noise that they have no choice but to listen to us and do something about the problems that are existing in the communities. So all I am saying is have faith in us and we are going to try our best to deal with some of these problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to clarify something else too. All the wires that you see running around here -- not only are we translating everything that is being said, every word is being recorded too and when these recordings go back to Yellowknife they will be typed out and every single word that has been spoken here will be available to read, we will not forget what has been said. Also, copies of this will go to the Housing Corporation district offices, in the case of Resolute it will go to Frobisher Bay. Hopefully they will take some action on that, but if they do not -- I noticed Bezal mentioning that we are tired of holding meetings and we want to see action. We are not government people here. We have sat in meetings ourselves for many years saying exactly the same things and I guess that is why we got elected by you, you elected Ludy and people like you in other areas elected the rest of us. I am sure that all of us intend that there should not be any more meetings about how to do it after this one.

All we have to do in convince the other Members of the Legislative Assembly, there are 24 of us. If we can convince them in our report about the changes that shall be made then these changes will happen. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make supplementary remarks -- I would like to make a recommendation to Phillip Nungak's presentation earlier, concerning contractors -- the contractors use a lot of money to build houses and in a lot of cases they do not make the building correctly and we feel that more employment should be existing in our own communities. So we feel that the communities themselves should be getting these benefits, even if there is going to be maintenance or renovations, the community themselves should be hired to do these local buildings and we in fact too are saying -- we know as much as southern contractors, if not more, because we have lived in this area and know what the problems are and after knowing these problems we seem to know more than the contractors that are being brought up to the Arctic here.

Also if they are going to give contracts out to southerners they should try and hire locally because to our knowledge now, the present contractors when they get their employees they get them from down South instead of hiring locally. So for that reason, we are trying to push harder to hire locally. For example, they are going to build five new houses here in Resolute, then if the contract is won by a southern contractor then they will be using a lot more money to build that house than if they had hired locally. I know that most of you are new MLAs and I know that it is going to be very difficult for you to phase the Housing Corporation because I know the Housing Corporation are trying to run their own affairs because the Housing Corporation doesn't even want to get involved with BRIA and BRC. The Housing Corporation are trying to run their own affairs but we will be waiting for the recommendations or the changes that will arise from this committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I would like to ask you a question regarding the houses that are usually built in the fall, throughout the winter. Which would you prefer, if they would be built in different dates, either in winter or in spring while the town is nice and warm. Which month would you prefer to start the houses.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, we thought about the month of September or October, that's when the materials are in and they have to build them very fast but if they are going to rehab the buildings or if they are going to build new houses we do not want to see construction starting in the winter. People would say that sometimes houses built in winter are



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wish there were. I am just saying this because in the beginning we were asked to go and visit houses so we can have clean houses to investigate and we were told that if the houses weren't maintained the rent would go high. So we were told if we kept our house clean and maintained the it, the rent wouldn't go higher. This is what we were told when we started to be board members in the beginning.

We were asked to go to each house to check to see whether they were cleaned and maintained and sometimes we were told to evict some people if they weren't maintaining their house. I will not evict anybody who is human because some people never had houses before. I will not evict another human being and I haven't changed my mind yet. I am not going to kick anybody out of their house even if their house is in very poor condition. It wouldn't be very nice to be kicked out. I wanted to say these things because I am now one of the board of directors but most of the roofs are just brown from dripping and also the windows get all fogged up in winter. In one corner of the window there is a wide opening and in that case there is a lot of snow coming in during winter. The pipes freeze up very easily because they are not insulated that well. In the beginning of July the ground will melt and we will have a lot of problems with pipes because they are way in the ground. They crack and they freeze as soon as the weather gets cold, everything freezes. Some of them don't freeze easily but some of them freeze just like that, as soon as the weather gets cold. These are the main things that I wanted to say so you guys can hear my concerns. I am going to stop right now, maybe I'll have some more comments later on. Thank you for listening to me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is there any questions from the committee. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Not a question, just a comment. We really appreciated your comments and maybe when we talk to the Housing Corporation we should bring you along because we need somebody with your courage if we are to get something done. Thank you very much.

MRS. MINNIE ALLAKARIALLAK: (Translation) Now, I have another comment to make. The federal government sent us in 1955 to this area and I guess they want us to make some money. The hunting grounds that we used to have are now being mined, even though when they moved us over here and if I understand even a little bit in English I would very much like to talk. I am always against some LCI -- yeah, when those Little Cornwallis Island employees first came here I gave them a lot of hard time, trying to stop their exploration and mining. The only time they came to us was when they were settled with the construction and everything, that's the only time they came to the Inuit to deal with the setting up of the mine on Little Cornwallis Island. Do you understand me? Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you.

MRS. MINNIE ALLAKARIALLAK: (Translation) Do you have any further questions to me or comments to make.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Probably not.

MRS. MINNIE ALLAKARIALLAK: (Translation) Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Anybody on the floor that would like to have their voice heard. Mrs. Allakariallak.

MRS. ELIZABETH ALLAKARIALLAK: (Translation) My name is Elizabeth Allakariallak and the presentation that I will be bringing up has been brought up by Phillip already, it is toward his remarks. I personally feel that it is a lot better and appropriate to build houses built by Inuit, in that way it would be more appropriate to hire locally because at the present time they hire people from the South and try to build during the winter. When they are completed and summertime comes along, there is a lot of draft coming in the houses from the wind, so I personally feel the Inuit should be building the houses up here in the Arctic, even though it won't be their own house or home-ownership. The Inuit here should be hired locally to construct the buildings or renovate and also I have another presentation I would like to make.

Number two, the tenants try to make some money, however when their rent payment comes along on top of that they also have to buy food and clothing. In some instances they don't even buy food and clothing anymore because all of the money is going to rent and that's one of the main concerns of the tenants here due to the fact that the rent is very high. Being a social worker for many years, the problem I have seen too is that in one house a lot of family members -- the tenants usually come to get social assistance too because there is a large family in one house and they have to pay a large amount of rent and that's one of the main problems that we have seen.

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not very well levelled. If there is minor construction it wouldn't matter that much if it was done in the winter but I would prefer construction being built this time of year. And I would reserve spring for constructing houses and people would not be too busy in town.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a question that has come up many times and I am sure will continue to be asked is that the people are concerned about rents going up. Is it your feeling that one of the big problems is that many of the houses were so poorly built that they are very expensive to run and that if the Housing Corporation built good houses the people wouldn't be so opposed to rents going up, since the costs go up every year that rents do?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I will try an answer the question. We experience those kinds of problems when the houses are poorly built especially houses which are built during the winter. We as payers intend to say that the cost is too much and I'll give an example. In Spence Bay the people are all employed, they have their own mayor and the people built their own houses. Perhaps there are some other firms who did the electricity or the wiring and the people are very satisfied with the construction of the houses. We have thought about doing the same thing and we also would like to see some good houses built, ones we build on our own. In Spence Bay, people build their own houses by the contractor and everybody is satisfied with the houses and they are doing it more and more every year. Did I answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Partially, I wonder though if the houses that are well built are less expensive to run? If the Housing Corporation raised the rents to cover increased costs of power, fuel, water, would people be as opposed to it as much as they are with poorly built houses and expensive houses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, the houses that are built fairly good do not give any problems with us paying the rent. If the people who built their own houses would be satisfied also, but we are mainly concerned about poor construction. When there is heavy winds coming in and sometimes the doors tend to open and also the foundation or the pad is not well levelled. Some of the houses are not well insulated as they should for up here and we are paying for the electricity. We are trying our best to keep the houses in good condition because we will be paying for the electricity. I understand your question about the houses that are built better and then we would be satisfied with the rent but I would not agree if I am not making a good salary and the house was in good condition. I would have problems with paying the rent and also if I was occupying a Housing Corporation house, I would not want the rent scales to follow with the DPW rent scale. We are now more experienced about electricity bills because we are now paying well over what we were paying in the past. Perhaps some of the people here can clarify on that matter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any more questions from the table? I would like to thank you. Is there any more people who would like to come up to the table?

MRS. MINNIE ALLAKARJALLAK: (Translation) I don't think I will be understood because I am from northern Quebec. My name is Minnie Allakarjallak, I use to be Eekalook but now I am Allakarjallak. This is my son, George, who is the chairman of the board and I feel sorry for him sometimes when he has to do all the work. So right now I am on the board and also we have a non-native person on the board and Ludy Pudluk is one of them also. I used to visit the houses every month and also we used to be told that we have to pay our rent at the end of the month because our debt might be going very high. So the housing association used to say that to us and we used to visit the houses and ever since the first housing association was formed I was a member of the board. So right now I was appointed again to represent the housing association and sometimes I end up also doing all the work.

A lot of people in northern Quebec can express themselves very well and that is why I am very open, I am not scared of anybody when I want to speak because we have all been told that there is nothing to be scared of in this earth. It is written in the Bible. It states also in the Bible that you -- so everytime I want to say something I just go right ahead. I am just trying to help my son because he's almost the only one that tries to deal with housing and I want to help him out. We are getting hell from people and our secretary and sometime we are the only three and sometime we

Being a social worker for many years, the problem I have seen too is that in one house a lot of family members -- the tenants usually come to get social assistance too because there is a large family in one house and they have to pay a large amount of rent and that's one of the main problems. This problem of having too many people in one building, we are trying to rectify that. We would like to make recommendations to you. Some of these people should be given a chance to move into a house. When they cannot move into a new house, then Social Services are being blamed by the person who has applied because of their rent. I would like this concern to be dealt with seriously. Those are the two presentations that I would like to bring up at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any comments from the special committee?

MR. BALLANTYNE: The problem of overcrowding is a very serious one. In how many houses in Resolute now, do you think there are too many people living?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Allakariallak.

MRS. ELIZABETH ALLAKARIALLAK: Probably around two or three who are living with two different families, and also there are some young people who could move into new houses now. If one big family is living in one building, that creates a problem too. At the present time there are two or three families who urgently require housing but in the future there is going to be more and more people who will be requiring better facilities. This problem will be existing for a long time because some of these people owe some money to the housing association and the Housing Corporation will not allow them to move into a new house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I am just not clear on what you are telling us and I just want to make sure. You are the social service worker here and what you are telling us is that some people owe the Housing Corporation money for rent and because of that they are not allowed to move into housing and therefore they have to go to Social Services to apply for housing for them. Is that what you are telling us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Allakariallak.

MRS. ELIZABETH ALLAKARIALLAK: I used to work for Social Services but I am not working there at the present time. The problems that we used to see when I was in Social Services is that they used to come to us to move into a new house and I tried to help those people. That was not the only thing -- to move to a new house, but there were some family problems too and the family wanted to move into new houses but they could not and they used to come to our office in order to rectify that problem. They came to seek counselling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Is there anyone else who wants to make any more comments? Mr. Aoudla.

MR. WALTER AODULA: I just want to support Nunatsiq News. The last one that came in from Frobisher. It stated that there was one person that was evicted and also that there would be more evictions because of slow payments. Those people that evict people from houses will not come to Resolute because there is a lot of us that owe rent, although there is eight houses vacant. If those people came to Resolute, I am sure there would be a lot of people out of their houses. This is what we read in Nunatsiq News. I know that the housing association gets funding and it is used for the fuel and electricity. I wonder how the housing association and the government can own their own power. I just wanted to support Elizabeth. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any questions? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: The last comment you made, you said something about speaking in my language, I guess there is no interpreter here. Go ahead.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Speaks in Cree, no translation available)

MRS. LAWRENCE: I do not speak Cree, my husband speaks Cree, I speak Chipewyan.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Perhaps you guys can deal with this when the language commission is in town. Is there any more comments or concerns. Mrs. Aoudla.

MRS. LUCY AODLA: My name is Lucy Aoudla, I am the secretary manager for the Resolute Bay Housing Association. My main concern is to get the houses that are occupied renovated again. I don't think they renovated them in the past. It is going to cost a lot to renovate them. There is also a problem of storage areas. The floors are cracking in the middle, when they moved them they did not bother putting them on a solid base and when the permafrost thaws the houses shift and crack and that is why the houses are all cracked and the windows have openings.

The rent is based on gross pay, and it should be based on net pay. That way the people would have a better chance to keep up with their rent. Also our holiday pay is only four per cent and after seven years of working it is six per cent. Could this be higher?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is there any questions from the committee? Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to voice their comments regarding housing? Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: Mr. Chairman, one of my recommendations -- I know it is going to be quite impossible, but this is a concern of the housing association. We have mentioned it a lot of times but it doesn't seem to get anywhere and we haven't told it to too many people. We know we are getting a very small funding for the housing association and we have to pay our employees and our secretaries and we have to pay for our heat and electricity and these are very high and we cannot keep up with the payments. We feel as a board of directors, if the heat and the electricity could perhaps be paid by the Housing Corporation, this would eliminate a lot of problems that we have because we use a lot of power in Resolute Bay. In this weather we do not use too much but in the winter when there is no sun, we use a lot because we live in a very cold place. We are just wondering if the heat and power could be paid by the Housing Corporation. We do not mind paying for the other costs. We do not want to borrow too much from the banks, sometimes we have to. Perhaps if the people who rent the houses would keep up with their rent there would not be too much of a problem. This is the point I wanted to make.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions from the special committee Members? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just a comment. I think you are right, it will be very difficult.

MR. T'SELEIE: I wanted to ask this question a little bit earlier. You are the chairman of housing here in Resolute, so maybe I could ask you. Do people in Resolute want some kind of home-ownership? There was a man here earlier who talked about people being supplied with planks and insulation, this type of thing. I just wonder whether your group has had any kinds of discussions about that? This is just a general question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Eekalook.

MR. GEORGE EEKALOOK: In regards to the home-ownership. People who want to own their own homes are ones that are receiving high gross salary. Most of us think it would be a lot cheaper to live in a house but I can only say that a person who gets a lot of money could buy or build his own house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Any more presentations? I would like to thank the people for coming here. We will try to deal with your problems, we are not just going to leave them behind. This is our second hearing and it has been functioning very well and we would like your support. I guess you are more experienced in living in houses, rather than managers. We are having hearings across the NWT regarding housing matters. Also the Members here are very anxious to deal with those kinds of problems and to hear any kinds of concerns. In the future we will all co-operate. But we all know that our bodies get sick easily and perhaps one of the Members will not be able to attend the hearings, but we have alternate Members who will attend in the place of someone who is sick. I would like you to be aware of that.

I would also like to thank the interpreters. I would like to introduce them. Jaypote Akegoak was recently picked up from Grise Fiord. Jonassie Akumalik from Clyde River and Mally Curley from Frobisher Bay. Our very hard working co-ordinator is Penny Aumond, she is the very curley one. We will have to leave tomorrow and I would like to thank you for your concerns and I will see you again in the future. Thank you.

---ADJOURNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Verbatim Transcripts  
of Community Hearings

POND INLET

June 5, 1984

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MLA, Slave River

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MLA, Baffin South  
Mrs. Eliza Lawrence,  
MLA, Tu Nedhe  
Mr. Red Pedersen,  
MLA, Kitikmeot West  
Mr. John T'Selele,  
MLA, Sahtu

Alternate Members: Mr. Michael Anqottitauruq,  
MLA, Kitikmeot East  
Mr. Michael Ballantyne,  
MLA, Yellowknife North  
Mr. Elijah Erkloo,  
MLA, Foxe Basin  
Mr. Samuel Gargan,  
MLA, Deh Cho

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF POND INLET, JUNE 5, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We will be holding a public hearing at 7:00 tonight and we will hearing the concerns of the people. Earlier today we understood that you, the board of directors of the housing association, would like to meet with us prior to the public meeting. Please note that we are not working for the Housing Corporation -- these are all Territorial Members of the Legislative Assembly and I will just introduce to you who they are. We got six elected members on the housing association, first of all, I think you all know me. On the far left is Mike Ballantyne from Yellowknife, Joe Arlooktoo from Lake Harbour, John T'Seleie from the West, Eliza Lawrence is from the West too and Red Pedersen is from Kitikmeot West from Coppermine.

I do not have any presentation to make to you at this time, however if you would like to voice your concerns to us, you may do so. Also you may express the concerns you wanted to bring up before the meeting tonight and please note that the concerns that you are presenting are being taped and recorded and they will be transcribed when we return. We are here to listen to your concerns.

A SPEAKER (Male): I am vice-chairman for board of directors and our chairman is not here at the present time. We do not have many concerns to present to you at this time, we will probably only have a meeting for only about an hour.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk) (Translation) Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I was not at the last meeting but actually our secretary manager who was there and these are written in English. One of the concerns was that non-native people are in the priority list in the communities and the number two list -- the government workers are occupying staff housing and the housing association wanted to know if there could be a possible change in that area.

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) The first item was summarized. It is mainly trying to say that when the communities were first being formed the non-native people came here as the first people and they selected the land where they could build their houses and afterwards people were being given houses and just put on a piece of land. However, in our communities our priorities on the land are now being used by the non-native people. Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Number two states again about the possibility of changes in government staff housing. Did you have a briefing on that? Perhaps you can elaborate that to us.

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) We have difficulties when there is a shortage of houses in almost all of the communities. The reason why we have a shortage of houses is because the government staff houses are already occupied and that's when I have reservations on that. Our association has thought that the housing association looks after the government staff people, like teachers.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I think this item is trying to set up some policies regarding the interior of a house. And people usually don't see the design so the architects are the only people who are mainly looking after that design and they don't even bother to show the people what design or what kind of building they are going to be receiving. Sometimes people receive small buildings with no space at all and sometimes the houses are facing north winds and that is unfair to the people when the architects are constructing the houses but people now would like to see the designs before they are built.

And again I guess you are aware of rehabs. They use so much space -- they want to talk about the space that is not being used.

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) The first houses that were built here are now being rehabed and they have to fix the interior first of all before they finish the whole thing. Sometimes they have to change the pad of the house and a lot of times the houses have been taken up further from the ground and they feel that some of the buildings are out of shape when they lift them from the ground and when the non-natives start to build their own house they build big large houses but when they build for natives they build them very high from the ground instead of making a large space for the inside.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) One further supplementary to the comment concerning rehabs. They are being built very high from the ground and it is very hazardous for the tenants because of the steps that go all the way to the ground and those are some of the problems that we have seen in the rehabs because they do not increase the inside of the interior they just rise them up from the ground. That is what they mean by rehabs.

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) Another concern is the rental housing. Every year it increases and we feel that if at all possible the rental scale should have a limit, a maximum rent scale. We feel that they should not increase the price because some people owe money and every year they increase the rent, they should set up a scale that would have a maximum limit. We feel that if the rent is going to increase all the time there will be a lot more people owing the housing association. That is one of our main problems and concern.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) These are the main presentations that we would want to bring to you however there might be some more further concerns and we know we have been board of directors for a long time and these are our presentations that we have seen in the past. We are giving you very important items to make recommendations and there is going to be a lot more concerns brought up from the public during the meeting tonight. And the tenants will probably be bringing up their own problems regarding their own house.

As a housing association committee we would like the things that I mentioned to you and those are our recommendations and we know that these are your priorities. On your forecast we know there is five priorities that you want to deal with at your next meeting and one of them is housing. We know that the main concern we will want to discuss is about budget and funding. We would want to see and recommend to you that the funding or the budget of housing be increased in the communities because the GNWT shows all these pamphlets on conserving energy and then we know that before the houses are properly fixed, those conserving energy will not be existing because they will be using a lot more money. If they do not fix up the house more and knowing that it is very cold up here, conserving energy is going to mean nothing even though we try.

So, I think we could solve those kinds of problems because the problem is going to stay with us and our generation is going to be using the houses and other generations after that. And also it affects education, that our generation should have a very good shelter. So, we would like to urge you to consider this big problem to us regarding the budget -- not to cut the budget.

And we would also like to see some rehabs being built better and right now we are experiencing a lot of rehabs that are poorly constructed but then they bring up the budget and they go after the construction and end up with poor construction. We as an association feel bad about the budget and after the rehabs are finished the problems come to the housing association and then we have a lot of problems on our hands. The other communities are experiencing the same thing so we would like to urge you to consider this. This should be a priority. You will hear about leaking and drafts on the rehabs but they will end up on the budget again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you finished?

A SPEAKER (Female): (In English) The last item, it was one of the biggest problems because in the northern part of Baffin Island, Pond Inlet. We have very many relatives who have been moved to other settlements like Resolute, Igloolik, Frobisher, Clyde, Arctic Bay, those areas. Some of them -- I would like to go back there sometime. Because of the shortage of houses, maybe they are just waiting for even one more house to be built then they'll be ready to go back. Because of the increasing of the population in Pond Inlet, marriages -- people moving in -- if you think of the large population, it is harder for the people around here to get jobs. Those people who need jobs, who got no jobs, they do not have jobs because they are lazy and because there is no jobs available. Just because of that, some of them get into high debt to pay for their rent.



We have been trying to work out a system to have those people who go on welfare after looking for a job after many years, to get social assistance to pay for rent -- not even the full price just for assistance. We have been very unsuccessful. We went to Social Services here in Pond Inlet and they had to phone headquarters down in Frobisher and Frobisher Bay said no, of course, Frobisher Bay has headquarters down in Yellowknife. You are the one coming from the Yellowknife area, now we are using you for a stepping stone to give us a short-cut to report this. This northerly problem should be fixed because we cannot get any housing rent assistance here in Pond Inlet. I think all the Northwest Territories do but if you look at the South there is a large number of bums, wins that are getting housing allowance so they have a roof over their heads. The country down there is not as cold as ours and they are allowed to get an allowance for their rent. They are Canadians and we call ourselves Canadian too and we have been treated badly in this way. Thank you very much.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) As you probably know, I have been working for the housing association for 11 years and the main problem all the time is the lack of funding. In 1984, I hear we got a letter from our headquarters and our present on the table and he mentioned that we should not go over this limit for the operation of our housing association. The board of directors broke down the budget that the Housing Corporation gave us. Here is the breakdown of the employees' salaries. The housing employees are lower from the other employees all the time.

The hamlet employees salaries are always going up and the housing association salaries are always falling behind them. From the district office, a guy came in to discuss the budget and this is the final budget that we have and we have to decrease the employees here in the community -- lay off some of the employees here in Pond Inlet. After studying this material that you have on the table, you probably will have a good idea how we can increase the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Exhibit 2, that's just information on page three.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Ever since I started working I kind of know the changes. Even though I know these changes I know that even us Inuit can run our own housing association here, if the money was available. If the money was available then we could train our own employees and hire our own employees and the board of directors could run their own affairs in the communities. We have heard that the Territories will be divided into two and looking into that for the future I think we have to make some proposals. The Housing Corporation has some very high priorities and it is very hard to deal with that corporation because they have so much power. Would it be possible, if the Territories is divided, would they be able to move the headquarters of Housing Corporation too, at the same time, because I have seen the future and the goals of the Housing Corporation.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I support our secretary. We have to go through our secretaries even when we have to get work orders from the community -- the tenants. It kind of gets difficult to deal with the Housing Corporation and you will hear about these problems from the communities. The priority we would like to see changed is the elected housing association members should be the gateway to talking to you. I know it is very hard to deal with housing matters but it is only the money that is our problem to try and run our own affairs in the community.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Some of the houses are being rehabed and sometimes the rehabs do not work as efficiently as they should and the funding just goes to waste. Sometimes it works on the field but other than that services such as electricity -- the funding just goes to waste. We thought if they are going to be reconstructing them they are going to be going to better use but after a couple of experiences the money is wasted. We have heard that 250 gallons can be used for a full year and we figured out on that matter and tried to come up with some sort of formula to work out the fuel for a whole year on the rehabs. Sometimes the rehabs are in good condition but not all the time. The biggest problem is the money that just goes to waste on electricity and other services. I don't have much to say but I am waiting for other people to say something. We as an association are mainly concerned about these items we just brought forward.

People who are receiving small gross while the inflation is going up our money is not catching up with the rent scales and we are working very hard to keep up with inflation. That's about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. We have less than 15 minutes. Are there any questions from the Members of the special committee? Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Not really a question. There has been a lot of talk on the rehabs and I had a chance to look at the plans for the rehabs that will be done this summer -- I just saw them last week. The houses will be made a bit larger in the new program. You have a very good drawing

I think it's a 396 house, the first three bedroom houses we have. What they are going to do is take that inside porch out and they'll put a big porch on which will have the furnace, water tanks, pumpout, everything will be out there. So the ones that will be done this summer will be made a little bit larger. They are changing them again this year. I think that is the only comment right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Eliza.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Someone mentioned that the priorities seem to be for non-natives. Who are they referring to as non-natives? Is it the teachers or is it the transient people that are just coming in to stay or is it the employees of the government?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Who brought that up?

A SPEAKER (Female): I wasn't listening. Would you repeat please.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Someone mentioned that the priorities seem to be on the non-natives coming in. My question is that the non-natives that you are referring to, are they the employees of the government either teachers, nurses or doctors. Who are these non-natives you are talking about?

A SPEAKER (Female): I will explain it plainer, just about every settlement that was started, the first one usually comes in with The Bay. Other whites coming in take the second best or third best -- you know those are the only ones that need houses during that time when the community was set up. Later on, when they started building the houses for the natives, of course they have no choice but you know those old houses belong to the mission, The Bay, RCMP and the government and they are on the shore. When they built for the natives they were built further away from the beach. Those are the hunters and they are supposed to be on the beach. The priority of the land should be for them rather than those bigger companies settling in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I don't have any questions now but perhaps during the meeting tonight, some questions may come up. I wonder would you be prepared to answer some questions later on tonight. We don't have time now but I think I'll hold my question for tonight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thanks a lot.

A SPEAKER (Male): One last remark I would like to make with the problems concerning housing. I know the housing association doesn't only have problems and we will be hearing the concerns from the public of Pond Inlet tonight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) At this time I would like to thank you and it is clear that we will probably have more questions tonight and if you would like to make further presentations tonight and I will be the chairman. We will not quit until you want to quit, we'll keep on going until you want to quit.

---Applause

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

POND INLET, JUNE 5, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Before we start we will have a short prayer.

---Prayer

My name is Ludy Pudluk, I am chairman of this Special Committee on Housing. The committee consists of six elected MLAs and four alternate Member. This committee was formed in February 1984 by the Legislative Assembly of the NWT to hear the concerns different communities had regarding housing.

First of all I will introduce the committee Members. On my left is Mike Ballantyne, MLA for Yellowknife North. Next to me is Joe Arlooktoo from Lake Harbour. The person on my right is John T'Selele from the western part of the NWT. Eliza Lawrence is also a MLA from the West. Red Pedersen is MLA from the Kitikmeot Region.

We would like to thank the community council for their invitation to have the special committee visit and hold a public hearing. The committee will hold public hearings in 10 Baffin communities this month. In the next six months about 40 communities will be visited. The NWT Housing Corporation will be reviewed by the committee. An interim report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this fall. The final report will contain recommendations based on the community hearings. It is the will of the committee that these recommendations lead to improvements in housing at the community level. The community hearings are the first step to find out what people would like to see happening with housing. Of course it will not be possible to make any promises about what the committee will be able to do. The committee has to consider the housing situation throughout the NWT and look where the money will come from for anything suggested. They have a responsibility to make sure that the recommendation they make are realistic and positive. We welcome your suggestions for improvement and encourage you to share your ideas.

For the benefit of the MLAs from the West, we would like to ask for a brief summary of how housing has been delivered to the Western Arctic in the past. We would also like to hear from board members of the housing association here and people from the district office of the NWT Housing Corporation. I would like anybody here who has concerns to please set up to the microphone at the table. Please tell us your name for the record. The interpreters will translate your remarks simultaneously and your comments will be recorded so that the transcript of the hearings can be produced. The head sets used for translation are fragile, so do not let the kids play with them.

I would like to thank all of you for attending and we would like to hear your concerns. We do not want to be asked any questions because we are not working for the Housing Corporation, we came here to hear your concerns. Your concerns on housing are our interest. At this time I would like to ask the western Territories delegate to give us a brief summary on how they deal with housing. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. I would like to thank the people of Pond Inlet for inviting the committee here. Your MLA, Elijah Erkloo, has spoken very often in the Assembly about your community. He has spoken very well and we have listened to his concerns. The problem of housing is a problem throughout the whole NWT. In my constituency of Yellowknife North, which is the old part of Yellowknife, one-third of my constituents are Dene. They have the same problems as you have. Many of the homes are overcrowded, badly built, the housing association has problems getting enough money to do their job. The people feel they are not consulted enough by the Housing Corporation.

I know that in the future division will occur, but it may take some years, but I think that we, together, will start solving these problems with housing right now. I know there are many meetings, many government officials, over the years, and people everywhere in the Territories are very frustrated. We do not work for the Housing Corporation. We do not work for the government. We work for you. If you do not like what we do, every four years you can change us. I know that people from the Eastern Arctic and the Western Arctic have talked to their MLAs, and all of us are very frustrated. Mr. Pudluk suggested this committee and was fully supported by Elijah Erkloo and by all of us. So we want to improve the situation and it is very important that if any of you have any problems that you tell us tonight. Because if we are to change the situation, we need your help and the help from all the people in the NWT. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne. Any member of the audience can speak. The floor is now open. If there is nobody coming up to the table we can even adjourn the meeting right now.

---Laughter

Mr. Elijah Erkloo.

MR. ERKLOO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Elijah Erkloo, I am a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Foxe Basin. I guess the committee is aware of the problems of housing and you will hear the same thing over and over again, sometimes something new will come up. Tonight I will try and support the housing association and housing federation in the communities. They do not have much authority. I have two points to make.

The housing association is very active in order to get more houses each year. There is always a shortage of houses. We have not had new houses since 1979. The problem is that our past MLA was not very active in getting Pond Inlet more houses. The housing association does not have any authority in the community.

Secondly, you have seen my house. It does not have any running water. During the winter the two stoves were turned on high and also two Coleman stoves were on. We had some difficulty with the heat so we had to move out of that place. All of my sons had to move out too. Because of that problem, I wrote to the housing association to reduce my rent because I had to do all the maintaining of the house and use snow for insulation. On the first months payment -- \$115 was for the payment and it was reduced to \$100 by the housing association. However the district office in Frobisher Bay did not approve the rent scale and I have a copy of the letter from the district office saying they would not reduce my rent. I am aware and you are aware that this house I am in is cheap but what I am trying to get at is that the housing association in Pond Inlet does not have any authority because of the district office in Frobisher. These two points are different.

The only time communities get houses is if the representative pushes hard. If they do not push hard there will never be new houses for the community. The older houses that are renovated are renovated only when they are told to do so. These houses are not put up by the Baffin Housing Federation and our authority over houses are being taken away.

The only way we can improve these problems is if the Baffin Housing Federation and the community housing associations are given more power and more funding. If we are given more power and not more funding this more power would be nothing if we did not receive enough money to work with. We are looking at our Nunavat government. The regional groups such as BRC, Baffin Regional Council, housing federation and the hunters and trappers association are going to have to be given more funding. There is no other choice. So the federal government and the Nunavat group, after they sign the agreement -- some people think it is just like a bingo. There was never anybody in the world that could get power instantly. So we have to prepare so we can have a good government. The regional headquarters in Yellowknife are keeping all the authority for housing, even if they give power to the communities, they always take it back. We Inuit will never have any chance if that is the case. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the head table regarding the comments made. Is there anybody else who wants to make some comments? Mrs. Gemima Nutaraq.

MRS. GEMIMA NUTARAQ: (Translation) Some houses are too high up from the ground. The Inuit go out hunting on the land and they have to leave their houses sometimes. We do not always have a vehicle to move things around. Inuit should be located more toward the shore. It is okay for a kabloona to stay in a high building because they do not always move things around. We used to build houses and they were all built near the shore because it was appropriate for us, as hunters. Now Inuit are in houses that are too high, and we have to carry all our things when we go out hunting. We used to build houses out of rocks and they were really well insulated. Now the houses that we live in have such high rents and we also have to buy food and things with the little money that we have. This is making it very hard for the Inuit. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mrs. Rebecca Enuusaq Qitsualik.

MRS. REBECCA ENUUSAQ QITSUALIK: I have two things I want to say to you. I am with the housing board of directors, I am also an interpreter for the nursing station here and also a secretary. Since I was born, this is the first time that I have lived in housing association buildings. I used to live in government staff houses or private houses. We all want houses in Pond Inlet. I have been living for a little over two years in Pond Inlet. The population is around 1000, it used to be around 500. I think that was before everyone was registered. The population is increasing, I know because I have to deal with registrations for birth at the nursing station. You have to deal with the health of the people and many of the houses are overcrowded. We are very thankful that there will be 10 more houses here in Pond Inlet. Perhaps you can investigate as to which communities are increasing rapidly. I think for the past few years, perhaps five years, a lot of people have had to wait for houses. Each community should be dealt with the same. Each community has different problems. Increase in population is a little bit slower in other communities.

Us Inuit have not been renting houses for too long. We used to live in tents, igloos and huts. I was born in a tent and since I got married and had children -- if I wanted to make a hut, I am sure I could. As I stated earlier, the population of Pond Inlet is about 1000. We used to deliver our own water and sewer. We cannot live in igloos anymore. Some of us can live in the old ways but we want to live in Pond Inlet because we want our children to attend school. We do not want them to grow up to be ignorant or stupid. But Inuit people can still live off the land but we are thinking about the future of our children. We would be happier to live outside a big community. We want our children to have a good education. For that reason we need houses because we are not going to see any teachers moving to the outpost camps.

The houses they build are not built properly, because a few years after they are built they have to be renovated and then they start using up a lot of money. We need better houses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Philippe Ootoona.

MRS. PHILIPPE OOTOONA: I am a housewife and therefore spend a lot of time working inside the house. I would like to comment that when people are planning the design of these houses, could they please think about the housewife and put in more storage and cupboard space. Last spring we moved into a house, it was not new, but during the winter the condensation in the house was so great that it caused the ceiling to leak down the walls and near the light sockets and light fixtures. I found this very scary to be living in a house where electric wires pass through water. Even the panels on the inside of the house are bent and warped because of this dampness. This house is no more than eight or nine years old and I do not think this should be happening in a house of this age. This lasted from about mid December until about April. The housing association locally, did the best they could to clear the roof of snow, but it still caused dripping through the ceiling until April. In the porches, nothing could be stored at this time as well, as water dripped continually around the light socket and down the walls due to the bad insulation. The water men who had to come in through the back door, slipped on several occasions.

Another point I would like to make is that with the emphasis on education these days, it is very difficult with children of the same age sharing one bedroom. Children need some quite place to do their homework, to read, and to learn, away from younger members of the family and the television. We presently have three children sharing one bedroom and due to the shortage of housing in Pond Inlet, I doubt we have a chance of a bigger house for several years to come, with only three children. I know there are several other families in this situation, who would like to have more rooms for their children but are unable to do so because there are families with more children that would come first on the list.

Lastly, I would just like to say that I have no complaints about the local housing association. They always do the best they can with the limited funds that they have available to them. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Anyone else like to speak at this time. Please feel free to speak in Inuktitut or English. Mrs. Abigail Idlou.

MR. ABIGAIL IDLOU: I have lived in different communities and stayed in different houses. The houses you visited today is close to what my house is like. Those houses are difficult to live in when you have many children. It is good for an individual but those buildings are very hard to heat. They are drafty and we have to insulate with snow. We need improved houses so that our children -- they are taught about health and home economics in school and then they do not have a good healthy house to go home to. That is why the education systems is slow at the present time. Our concerns are not only for our generation but for changes for the future. The population of Pond Inlet is increasing rapidly. Every year there are about 20 children born. We need them for our children. It is hard to have a good life in these places.

There is not enough storage space or enough places for our children to sleep. When they get older they want their own rooms. We want a better future for our children -- not just a place to sleep. A house is attached to the life of a person. We definitely need a good home to have a good life and it helps the students at the school, without enough furniture or shelves it creates problems for the mother. When there is not enough space in the kitchen that is another problem too. Those are many problems that are realized by a mother. For that reason we would like to see better houses being built in Pond Inlet. We would like to see more convenient homes. The housing associations work hard and even though they try to work hard, they cannot meet the recommendations or changes through lack of funding. They try and maintain the house but then they cannot because of lack of funding. I would want your company to concentrate on these specific problems because there are some houses where wind and snow blow inside during winter. Some houses even drip water all along the side. It is a health hazard in the house, and for those reasons we would like to see better homes here and I have no further concerns. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any questions from the members of the special committee? Mr. Arlooktoo?

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a specific question which you referred to, but we have also heard a lot of problems on housing so I would like your opinion of the rent scales because some of the houses go up to \$400, ranging from \$150. Would you like to see some changes on the rent scales because some of the people have said that people are paying a lot of money when they are living in poor housing.

A SPEAKER (female): (Translation) According to the condition of the houses I think it would be better to set the rent scales according to how the houses are built.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more questions from the Members? Thank you. Any more?

MRS. LETIA KAYAK: (Translation) I would like to make a presentation. I am very glad to have a shelter being available to me because there are a lot of houses you can choose from but the one we are living in now is a three bedroom house and the temperature in each room varies. In one room the temperature would be too high and during the winter one room would be too cold. Sometimes one of the rooms, the biggest room, has to use a heater. So that is how we are living in our house. I do not want to move to another house and sometimes I feel I have to move out. The housing association had tried to solve those problems and the maintenance men had tried to work these out, but because of lack of funding everything does not go right. I think there should be a set rent scale or a limited rent scale. I would like to see that very much. Some of the houses have a very high rent scale and because of the inflation going up we have to go along with the inflation also. I do not have very much presentation to make. Thank you for giving us the shelter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any questions from the Members? Thank you. Is there anybody else from the audience who wants to make a presentation?

MRS. ANGOITIANUK KATSAK: (Translation) I am not going to be talking about my family but I will speak on a specific point. We are getting behind on our payment to the house. In the house we all work, we all hold a job, but we are getting behind on our rent. We, as workers, cannot get any raise, so it is very hard for us to keep up with the rents and it is causing a lot of trouble.

The people who are unemployed have to pay for their rent also and we also have difficulties with our rent. The net pay we take home usually goes to the rent and we have kids also whom we almost cannot afford to buy enough groceries for. The cost of living is very high now and also for the telephone bills. I cannot say any more on other problems we experience.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any questions from the table?

MR. GAMALIEZ KILUKISHAK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a person from Canada but I have my rights because there is a constitutional right. I would like to say a few things which I did during the winter. I was in an outpost camp but then we moved back to Pond Inlet and lived in three big rooms with 17 families in it. So I approached the housing association to see if I could get a house for the 17 families and nobody ever came back to answer me.

Also the problem the housing association has is when a person goes to the housing association, the housing association tends to refer to the Housing Corporation. I think that is when the problem comes in. I feel that the housing associations do not have as much power as they should because they tend to refer to the Housing Corporation and that is one of the difficulties I have. First of all, we received a house, because there were some health hazards. I do not think it works that way. The people who used to sell things intend to reduce their sale markets because I think that works the same way as the housing association does. I see some difficulties in that area. Perhaps there are some things that are not true what I said. I have not lived in Pond Inlet for five years. The housing associations in the community does not have enough power and that is when the difficulty comes in. The people do not rely on the housing association any longer because the housing association rather would refer it to the Housing Corporation. The house we are in right now is in bad shape, poor condition, and they cannot reduce the rent scale. So I approached the housing association or the secretary manager and they just gave me a letter and if I tried to read it it would take too long. It is a letter referring to Housing Corporation. That is it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any questions from the table? Thank you.

MR. APPIA AWA: (Translation) My name is Appia Awa. I do not have much of a presentation but I would like to make a concern. When we were living in Igloodik houses were being built in 1961. Some individuals were receiving small houses, matchboxes, due to health hazards because they were living in very bad buildings. After these people received the houses, more people were applying for houses, but then the houses were small. We believe that the rent scale was going to be very low but the rent scales were very high then. From my understanding our rent scale on our first house was \$2 per month. I think it was government subsidized and after they built more houses and more and more people came and we did not mind at all because people were building houses and we were not living in huts anymore, and our kids were having good education and we were satisfied because we got all those benefits.

I am very sorry that there is still some sickness going on in the families and will continue to be sick in future. I think it is caused when there are too many people in one house. Again, because it is the same problem, the rent scales are increasing especially where an individual is getting a high gross. We now also have to buy groceries because our kids usually like groceries. After we taught our children how to eat traditional food and then the food was not so expensive, but now everything is quite expensive and it is getting hard to get what we want. Also the transportation such as skidoos are used to supplement our food and they are very expensive. Things like guns, everything. I just wanted to mention it to you. I know that you know. For that reason we were moved to a bigger house with running water, perhaps around 1977. Because there are not too many people working in our household, so the rent is not that high, it is only around \$200 per month, but it is increasing every year and it seems that the rent increase will never end.

The way the houses are built, I think they are made just for the summer because they are not made for the winter even if you have the heat very high. In springtime it drips like crazy because these houses do nothing but drip because they are not made for the cold winter. So maybe you can tell these Housing Corporation people about this dripping in springtime, and that they get really cold in winter. Because of that we have to keep up the heat very high, therefore we use a lot of gas, and these are the concerns I wanted to say to you so you can make recommendations for those things.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions from the committee? I also would like you to know that we do not mind if you speak against anybody because these concerns we will direct them to the

Housing Corporation so say anything that you want. Do not be scared or shy. I would just like to say thank you because there are no further questions. Are there any more concerns?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) My name is Paul Idlout. I am originally from Pond Inlet and I am a member of the housing association, and I have been a member for the past five years. I am a father and I also have a house and I have children who have their own houses and I have relatives that have their own houses. I also have a lot of friends that live in houses. I am a representative for the Housing Corporation and I try to deal with that in Pond Inlet. My friends, my children and my relatives when they ask any kind of question I have to answer to them when there is a problem with houses. When I have to answer I have to state the obstacles that we have to go through and we have to try to deal with these problems. It is very obvious that the Board of Directors of the housing association, because the board of directors will keep continuing to try to deal with these problems. They will not stop trying to deal with the housing problem. The families that rent these houses, there are 600 people who live in a 100 houses. The main problem was that there were too many people in one house. Sometimes it reaches up to 16 people in one house.

As you have heard some problems when other people were speaking, we have to rectify in winter. A lot of people cannot stay in their house because it is so cold that the house cannot be occupied, and for us as a board of directors, we have to try to deal with this problem and it is a very heavy problem so we would like some support from these people that have the authority to do something about these houses. For the past few years we have been trying to get a house but we have not been approved. We cannot get approved. As you know one of our board of directors is trying very hard to help us, and it seems like this is the first time our concerns are being heard. When we are trying to deal with a heavy problem we always try to look for somebody who is capable of knowing the channels how to get help. There are so many houses that are dripping and the foundation of the buildings are not too level and the old houses are not being renovated, even when there are new houses being built up. These problems will always be here in our community.

These problems cannot be rectified that quick but we try to work on the houses that are in the worst condition, so we would like to get some help from those of you who are able to speak out and who understand our language. There are a lot of people in Pond Inlet who go to another house to sleep because they have no space to sleep in a certain house, and because there is no water is it very difficult to keep the house clean. So they have to get some water perhaps from the next door neighbour. I think the housing problem should be one of the priorities in the settlement. As somebody mentioned, it is attached to the education of the children, when the children are being taught how to maintain and how to live properly, and when you have too many people in one house and when the house is dripping all the time, these things we hear a lot as a board of directors even though we are trying to deal with them. We try and tell the Housing Corporation about these problems because the funding is the one that is stopping us from doing what we would like to do with our houses, so we make a lot of people wait to get an answer. Somebody mentioned these houses are not built for the North's very cold winter and this is completely true and this is one of the main problems that we have. I think houses have to be built to follow the conditions of the North. I am sure that you as a committee will recommend about these problems and obviously these people are trying to support us as a board of directors and we would like to see things improve through this committee.

It is very difficult to try and work in a very small space because when you try to go to one person you have to go through a different channel in order to get what the community needs. And through those channels you try and help your family and your friends. We have a large amount of waiting lists for housing and these people who request housing never ends. We also have a lot of written problems in our files, but we cannot deal with these problems because they are very major problems. Younger people I know that try and work together in order to solve their problems and these problems are always existing in Pond Inlet.

I think these should be dealt with so that the communities can live in better conditions, and as a board of directors we will not stop pushing for better housing and we need support, and we will not stop in trying to get support for these things we want to do. If we just give up as a board of directors, it would not be any good. We will not stop, all of us. We will not give up. We should not give up. We have to keep on pushing because having proper housing is very important. I think all of us know that if we just give up, nothing will be improved. We all know that only two of us are not able to fix this problem. The only way this can be improved is through the Assemblies. So housing problem has to be one of the top priorities because it concerns our life and it is also for the future of our children. I hope that meeting as a group we will be able to work as a group and just keep on working on this problem. Thank you.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions from the special committee?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your comments. They are very valuable to us. This afternoon we met with your housing association and with your secretary manager and we feel that you have a very very strong and a very good association. What I would like to do is ask a few questions in order that we may be able to help you. In the other communities that we visited, other housing associations were not happy with the way that the Housing Corporation decides which community will get houses. This year the Housing Corporation will build 250 new houses in the Northwest Territories, and they decide which communities get houses and which communities do not get houses. It was suggested that perhaps a better way of deciding which communities get houses would be that the regional housing associations would decide among themselves which communities in their region would get houses. Would you like that better than what we have now?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) Yes, Mike, we have brought up that subject from the past and that was one of the problems that we have seen about the allocation of houses because that will not solve the problem. Even the communities themselves, if we were selected to which communities should, then the community of Pond Inlet would get a hundred if they have the selection in Pond Inlet. But the solution probably is through Baffin Regional Housing Federation, because we know the Housing Corporation has a lot of responsibility and very heavy material, and they have so much responsibility such as funding and so many different things. I think the best operation is to create a regional body, probably here in Baffin Region, then the region themselves would have the responsibility of deciding which communities should be getting. I would definitely go to the Baffin Region Housing Federation to do that responsibility. Does that answer your question?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, thank you very much, you did answer my question. Another problem that we found in other communities is that local people would like the opportunity to build the houses and to get employment when new houses are built or rehabbed. Do you feel that you are getting a fair opportunity now to get employment in the building of new houses or rehabbing of houses?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) Yes, Mike, I would like to try and answer your question. We are not too concerned about this situation. There are contractors here and the contracts are open to the public. The people who select these contractors and the last contractors in the co-op here had the contracts for the last rehabs and all of the employees were natives or Inuit. When the contracts are open to the public, the only small concern we have seen is that the people who live here for a long time, they cannot change the blueprint of the rehab or a new building, they cannot change that plan. And the people who live here for a long time, even though they want to change it they cannot change the blueprint because it is hard. It states on the contract that the contractor has to follow the blueprint as it is written, even though the contractors sometimes notice that if it had been changed a little it would have been a lot better. Even when the contractors find some problems on the blueprint they still have to go ahead with the plan and that is one of the concerns that we have too. Even though the contractors notice there is a mistake on the blueprint, they still have to go ahead.

Also, I think that it would be best that the people up here should work on the houses or rehabs and they should feel free to build that house. Because in the past there used to be some people who just came up here to make money and when the building is finished they just leave right away and they have good houses down south and the contractors in the past never used to care how they were built, as long as he gets his money. If they work on a house they would work on it so that it would last for a long time and try and fix it properly, because if you want to try and fix up something good and appropriately, you do not care about the money. All you care about is the proper fixture of the house. Does that answer your question, Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, it did, thank you. As a supplementary to that, I wonder, do you think that the government should provide more training programs for people to build houses, to rehab houses and to look after the maintenance of houses?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) And another thing, Mike, we have maintenance workers and those are employees of the housing association and the government has opened a training centre and we are expecting that our maintenance employees will complete their training and provide them with full certificates, and we are looking forward to this training program. Once these employees complete their training their work will be a lot smoother. And there are not a lot of people who have completed their education. There are some people who are finally finishing grade 12 here in our community and I will not go into detail about the problems at school but we know that in the future we will be expecting better employees who are willing to work and finish their education and get certificates and have a good economy for their future. Thank you, Mike.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more question for Paul. Do you think that the government consults with the people before they design a new house? For example, I understand that ten new houses will be built this year. Did the government talk to your association before they designed the house to ask you what you want in a house?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) Yes, Mike, as stated earlier about the design of a house, the design of a house was touched upon earlier and the design we referred to as the interior and also the foundation and pads. The maintenance employees and maintenance workers usually have problems after the design is made. We cannot deal with the design of a house in our meetings and that is the reason why the blueprint and the design we cannot change them and we have to stick with those problems even if we do not agree with them. As you saw earlier today when you visited the houses, plywood are about four feet, those houses are four feet from the ground and it is very hazardous for very small children. I am quite sure that some of my good friends will fall down from some of these houses because the problem of the design. If we are not going to deal with the design or the blueprint of a house, then that would be the problem all the time, and the problems stick with us all the time. But if they had corrected that mistake, if we had a chance to check through that design we probably could have corrected it instead of it staying with us all the time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think one of the questions was, does the government show you the blueprints or the design. I do not think you gave the answer for that.

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) The blueprints always pass through us and we see when the blueprint is finished. However, we do not have any power of redesigning the blueprint because we do not have any trained architects in our region or in the community.

MR. JOE ??: (Translation) Thank you. My question would be referring to a question, if there is going to be 10 houses coming in, how many applicants are there on the list?

MR. ??: (Translation) I do not quite understand the question.

MR. JOE ??: (Translation) My question is the people who will be receiving the houses, how many applicants are there?

MR. ??: (Translation) I am not quite sure of how many applicants there are but during spring there were 30 applicants and we cannot even find one house for the 30 applicants, and I know for sure that there are applicants, approximately 10 are on the urgent list and there are another 20 applicants waiting on the list. Also, the houses are poorly located, as someone has said earlier, and do you know where the new houses are going to be located. On the highest hill just near to us?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any more questions from the table? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just one last question. I just thought of it. It seems to me that sometimes the Board of Directors of the Housing Corporation are not as sensitive to the needs of the communities as they should be. And we need from you, we need new ideas of how to improve the situation. Do you think that perhaps the Board of Directors of the Housing Corporation should be chosen from the Board of Directors of the different housing associations so you have people who know the problems, are probably better able to solve the problems. What do you think of that as a possibility?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) We are well aware of any ideas coming from the people which should be directed to the Housing Corporation. I think there should be a faster speed of getting more power but the authority in the community is not enough and here we are trying to help the Housing Corporation and they often have to refer to somebody else due to budgets or the funding. So they are not asking for any Board of Directors from us. But I know they have some difficulties in controlling their responsibilities, but we are co-operating and also we are understanding of the difficulties, because we direct our problems to the Housing Corporation and the Housing Corporation has some strong points and soft points and I cannot tell you of what exactly the Housing Corporation is weak of. The Housing Corporation are in regions, but the people who are sitting at the table were given ideas or views of housing matters that the housing matters should be the priority item in your Assembly and especially the funding that should be available to the communities. Some power should be given, or will be given to us. Does that answer your question?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Not completely. I wonder, for instance, the way it works now is the Minister appoints the Board of Directors of the Housing Corporation. Do you think it might be better if the regional housing associations, for instance the Baffin Region, your association, would make

recommendations to the Minister of who should be on the board of directors of the Housing Corporation?

MR. PAUL IDLOUT: (Translation) True, exactly Mike. The comments I made or the remarks I made will be continued. The housing federation are consisting of every chairman of the housing associations from the communities in the Baffin Region, and the federation is just beneath the Housing Corporation. They are also representing other organizations. I am sure that there should be an organization or representatives from each community and our elected MLAs have other responsibilities to look after, and the Housing Corporation has a lot of responsibilities within the Baffin Region, and when they have too many responsibilities the priorities are first looked at. I think there should be a committee or a body set up just to look after the priority items.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any more questions? If not, I would like to ask, and I will be asking the same question to every community, would it be easier if, for example, the sealift arrived to communities during the fall with their materials and the construction usually starts in the late fall or early winter, and sometimes people say that these constructions in the winter are poorly built. Would you rather wait for the later date or would you like to have the same routine?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I think that is one of the main problems and I think everybody is aware that the temperature tends to bother everything. I think construction would be good if the weather here would be warm all year around. First of all when they are constructing the houses they tend to do it in a rush. So if there was no cold temperature in the construction, I think that the houses that are built would be in good condition. The construction depends on the weather and sometimes they have to wait for awhile and warm themselves up and we know that they could be deferred but they never bother to defer the dates. I am sure that is one of the problems. They are given a lot of funding and they get good money for that but the construction is very poor at the end due to cold weather.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any questions from the table?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask your table, the housing federation which consists of every chairman, and a chairman for our housing federation and he has a vice-chairman from Broughton Island. I would like to know if you are going to be inviting one of these people to your hearing because I know they have a presentation to make. I am not sure what their funding is like but I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I did not have a chance to call him because he does not have a phone and he is moving out and I wanted to know where you will be meeting him.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be meeting with him in Frobisher Bay on Thursday, and I am not sure if his vice-chairman will come along. He will be doing a formal presentation.

A SPEAKER (Male): Mr. Chairman, I finished earlier, but while Mike was asking questions I would like to make some more comments regarding the Housing Corporation's board of directors. We have a representative for the High Arctic, and up to today, he has not come to Pond Inlet once regarding housing. For this question that Mike mentioned about our Minister appointing the board of directors, I think there should be another body that appoints a board of directors for the corporation and I think the association or the Housing Corporation should have a better working relationship with the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any more concerns?

MR. JAYKO ANAVIPIK: (Translation) I live in Pond Inlet. Maybe first of all I will have four main comments that I will be mentioning to you. First of all I will say who I am and what I do so you will understand clearly. I am very happy that there is a hearing by the Legislative Assembly regarding the problems of our housing in the communities. I have been waiting a long time for this opportunity to speak about the housing problems. I have a house and I am employed. Since I have been able to work I have mostly been working. The first thing I would like to mention, Mr. Chairman, is what I believe in because you are here to listen to our concerns. The first thing I will say is about the rent, regarding the 25 per cent based on your salary for the rent. I have never been satisfied with the rent scales because the employed people have to pay their rent according to their rent scale. I think there is discrimination on the employed people. If you are

house in public housing or renovated the old houses that were first built, after it is renovated and it is public housing, and the rent automatically goes up. Also, if you are not employed and if you are getting social assistance from the government, I think the people that are on assistance pay \$28 a month and that never changes. When a person is not employed and when they are paying only \$28 and when they are getting social assistance from the government, and the person that is employed pays around \$300 if they moved into a renovated house, this is the problem. When you are working you look at these rents you see a lot of differences and it is not suitable for the employed people. I think you know a bit about the rent scales.

My second concern is in regard to the renovated houses, rehabs. I am not very satisfied with those rehab houses even though when people say that they are in better condition. In repairing the roof, they just put new material on top of the old one and the material is very cheap and they put a cheap refrigerator and washing machine in. We are happy with the washing machine and the running water but I think they are very cheap material according to the rent we pay. I think within two years I will be paying around \$600 rent, even if I move to a house that has been rehabed and cheap material put on everything.

My third concern is the housing association board of directors in the communities, regarding the set up of the rent scales. I used to work for the housing association as a secretary and I know and I have heard that the Housing Corporation has a policy that will be followed by the housing association in communities. In one of those manuals it states that the housing associations of the communities are able to set the scales if the person that rents the house is -- I know that the housing association in the community, if they set a rent scale for one person -- I think it would have to be the same with everybody in that community. I would like to see in the future that the Housing Corporation finds a new manual for the housing association which states clearly that a person renting a house, if he does not have a refrigerator in the house, the rent should go accordingly for these things.

I disagree with the last person in Baffin. There are a lot of committees and bodies such as the Baffin Housing Federation and Housing Corporation housing committee in Baffin and I think if there is another committee set up, even if there is another committee set up our problems will not decrease. They will still be there because our board of directors in our communities, they are called board of directors by the Housing Corporation, but they are just advisory committees to the Housing Corporation and they have no authority or powers whatsoever. This is part of the great problem in Baffin Island. I do not think there should be another committee set up on top of the committees that we have now. I think the board of directors of housing associations in communities should be given more power instead because I think that would be a lot better in eliminating the problems that we have. Perhaps you did not quite understand the things I said, and this is all I have to say right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I wonder if there are any questions from the special committee?

MR. BALLANTYNE: It has been said in all the communities that we visited that everybody would like to see the board of directors in the communities have more power, and I personally agree with the idea. It would help us if you could give us some examples of what powers you would like to take over.

MR. JAYKO ANAVIPIK: (Translation) The board of directors cannot reassess, if whatever they want is not approved by the Housing Corporation because there is no power. They are just classified as an advisory committee by the Housing Corporation. If you see their manuals, the Housing Corporation manuals, you will understand how much power they have in the communities. I would like to see that they can change or fix and maintain the houses themselves.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand. Something that might be helpful to the committee over the next few months is the next time that the housing federation meets, that they discuss the situation and perhaps give to our committee a list of recommendations of areas that the local housing associations would like to take over from the Housing Corporation.

MR. JAYKO ANAVIPIK: (Translation) I would like to thank you at this time for patiently hearing my comments. I am also a member of the housing committee. I do not have written material but I will try and memorize these materials I have in front of me. I also would like to see the housing associations be given more power and also another problem we have seen is that these buildings are not suitable for the North. I even personally feel that the houses that are allocated to different

communities -- and you know that different communities have different climates or weather situations -- then these buildings should be made to be suitable for the different communities where they are being built. Also the corporation should come up to the local housing association to find out from the association whether these houses that are coming up to the communities are suitable for the communities, because right now they are just given without no consultation. It seems the problem here is that once the building is completed then they find it is not suitable for the certain climate. Then once they realize it is not suitable then the government has to help in order to create better or to rehab them. The housing association, when they request funding most of the time their request is never approved. Also the concerns in our community, we cannot simply go down to the corporation to get approved for these tenants.

As the housing association here in Pond Inlet it would be better for us if we had better consultation with the Housing Corporation and also the Pond Inlet Housing Association board of directors would be properly set up if the Housing Corporation are met. When there are too many different kinds of houses, and also the houses that are being built during the cold months -- in the past too I have been an employee for rehabs and I have seen that these rehabs are not even suitable for the North because when they build those rehabs, the inside is warm and the outside is very cold and frozen, and when the stove is off the temperature is the same whether it is inside or outside, and the interior which was warm when it was being built tends to have gaps, openings when it warms up. You can even hear the cracking of the house in that situation. That was when it was freezing. And when it is warming up, when the stove is lit again, when the building is warm, the exterior of the house begins to crack because of the situation from the inside of the building. It would probably be better if rehabs or new buildings are built they should build them when the temperature is warm outside, so that the temperature will be the same in the interior of the house and the exterior of the house. Even when it gets cold, then the shape of the building would not change too much. I know that way they will last longer.

The climate of the South and the North are very different from each other, the cold, the climate, the temperature, the weather is different. The new houses that arrives here, if the housing association and the corporation discussed prior to the arrival of the material on houses, then they probably would use a lot less money. We would be using less money and I think that would solve some of the problems because sometimes we use a lot of money which is not even suitable for up here and for the employees. Even up here we try and find out how we could save money. And at this time that is all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there questions from the board members, special committee? Thank you. Anybody else?

MRS. CARMEN KILUKISHAK: I would just like to state two items. First of all on a lower matter, I would like to see housing education promoted to the new tenants that are going into either the public housing or any housing in the North, to learn how to look after houses and how to preserve energy and other items that are very appropriate to getting a new house, especially if you are a new tenant and have not lived in a public housing or any other housing that is available in the community.

The other item that I would like to see recommended is on the subject of subsidy, government subsidized housing that is used on public housing and other housing that are in the North. I would like to know if it would be possible to use that subsidy for more worth-while projects such as used to improve the housing in the North to suit the culture, environment and also to have available to the potential tenants the variety to select from. Those are the two items that I would like to bring up, because we see too many three bedroom houses that are provided when we see in our community such as Pond Inlet, where a couple without children are having to be put in a three bedroom house because there is no other alternative for them, or a family of 13 be put into a three bedroom house because there is no other alternative for them either.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just one comment is the idea of an education program, you are the first one to bring an idea to us and I think it is a very good idea, and we will definitely explore it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further concerns from the special committee?

MRS. MARY ARNATSIAQ: (Translation) I probably would not make a clear statement, however I am going to state a problem that I have had. We have moved to a house and every year in springtime it is

dripping all the time. In the past when we moved, the following year the insulation, even as a woman myself, I have to roll it because there was a lot of dripping and my husband is very old now and he is hardly able to help, and our children are numerous. We are 10 in our family. Also the beams are made out of wood which are very heavy and it is very hard to lift them up when you are old. And when you are up in the attic the beams are too wide and once you put your foot on the wood you tend to go through the hole. I think it would be a lot better if there would be more surface above the beams. Me and my spouse will be tired when we are old, having to clean it up every time. Also me and my husband are trying to use a very light mattress so we can easily move it around where there are no dripping areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any questions from the table?

MRS. REBBECA ENUYAQ QITSUALIK: First of all I would like to say something on the tiles which are put first of all in a new house. We all know and heard that the houses are poorly constructed and that some of the beams tend to crack. Since we are in a cold area and since the floors are too weak. If the flooring was to be very strong I think we would have no problem then. And if the beams are stronger I think the buildings would hold a lot longer and that way they would fit to the northern community. And also I was going to say that since the inflation is going up, we as a housing association board of directors we have to get into inflation also to the delivery of water and other services to the house. Individuals who are not married or are beginning to apply for more houses and they intend to wait a long time before one can be moved into a new house. I would like to see apartment-like buildings that would be available to those younger individuals and that way the rent costs would be lower. We know that the inflation is also going up and it would be hard for us to keep up with inflation. I think you are the first special committee to look into the housing matter and it would be better for the older people to live in real houses. I think we have to look into better housing.

The question that was directed regarding the blueprint design there was a question if we have a chance to see these after they design the blueprint. It seems to me that question was not answered correctly. In fact we never seen any blueprints before and also perhaps I think the housing association is never the first body to see the blueprints, and then after it is built we see the actual blueprint. And we as a board of directors, the managers, or the high people -- I think maybe somebody should make some brochures for the NWT so that all the people could be covered. Just do not direct them to housing association. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions from the special committee members? Thank you.

MRS. REGILEE ERKLOO: (Translation) I do not have much to say but the people who used to live in original houses -- I feel very sorry for them, and they do not have any opportunity to bring up their views that was in the old times. Since my husband was elected we do. We are living in a very poor house and we cannot live there properly and there are a lot of clothings lying around the floor and it tends to get stuck on the floor when you lift the clothing because it is frozen, so it is very hard to live in those kind of houses in the winter. Just because the people of Pond Inlet are nice to us they never have said anything all throughout the year and sometimes when I am cooking it gets really hot in the house and so I go to somebody else's place to bake some bannock or other food. So that is how much I am suffering. I approached the housing association for a decrease in the rent but they cannot approve it.

Being a housewife is a bother sometimes because we have to do a lot of sewing on the floor, sewing on caribou clothing and other stuff and there is not enough space for housewives. I know there are other housewives experiencing that kind of problem. When you are a woman it is very bad to have no comfortable place to do the chores and we have to make clothing for the men. Perhaps the rents should be lowered or otherwise burn the building. The women have a lot of chores to do such as seal skinning and sewing caribou clothing, but we do not have much comfortable room or space to do those kinds of chores. I would like you to be aware of that. When there is water on the floor, one person has to use an axe or a hammer to chip off the frozen ice. If the Housing Corporation or the association is going to make money out of those, I think it is nonsense. I have a lot of things to say and filled with anger towards the Housing Corporation and the association and I feel sorry for the people who are now experiencing this kind of problem which we did not in the past. People are not satisfied with housing and a lot of people other than us did not come here. I feel bad about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more questions from the special committee? Thank you. Any more presentations?

MR. ISACIE ANAVIPIK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I have two main concerns to be brought forward which I think are important. First of all I would like to ask the committee since the hearing is being recorded, would it be available to the housing associations if you turn it into a transcript?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): All the recordings are being requested by the Housing Corporation in Yellowknife and in Frobisher Bay and they will also be available to the communities.

MR. ISACIE ANAVIPIK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to bring up the matter about the housing association policies. I think the housing association has to think them over or deal with them. I think the Housing Corporation policy has to be changed by the housing association. They are not very suitable for the people that rent houses because they cannot always be followed and I think the housing association will have to be involved. To me, I think the Housing Corporation policies or manuals should be changed. That is the first comment I wanted to say and my second concern I think in the future there should be some houses for those who are single, who have no husbands or a wife. Perhaps they can have one bedroom apartments or houses. I feel very strongly that there should be something like apartments or row housing type apartments, duplexes. I think there has to be new houses. There are already single houses here in Pond Inlet. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions from the committee? Thank you. I would like to thank all of you very much for coming over to this meeting and for voicing your concerns and before closing perhaps Mrs. Muctar can make some comments. Just come up to the witness table.

MRS. KUPPAQ MUCTAR: (Translation) I will probably repeat what people already said. I am not originally from Pond Inlet but I got married to a man that lived in Pond Inlet. I am very thankful having a house but I also disagree with the set up. We used to have a hard time living and I almost starved at one point. We are very thankful for having a house but I am very concerned about the rent. It is okay if we are inside the house all the time and when you do not go away, if you just stay in the house -- if I pay rent I do not mind, but we have to go out hunting sometimes and these houses do a lot of dripping, especially the roof, and it ruins the interior. That is my main concern, the dripping part of the houses. That is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions? Thank you. Is there anybody else? Before I close the meeting I think Eliza has something to say.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say thank you to the community for inviting us here. I realize that housing is a big problem because even in my area we have the same problems, although we are encouraging our people to build their own homes because we have trees and can build log houses. But just the same they have similar problems as you people have here. There is something that is hard for me to understand, it seems that the district and the headquarters are setting guidelines and policies and putting out pamphlets like rent scales according to different salaries and for people who are not working it is not meeting the needs of the people, and that is one big problem that we are experiencing in our community as well.

Some people even mentioned tonight that if there are some appliances missing, like say there is no fridge or you have to put in your own stove, the rent should be based according to that, and we also have experienced that problem as well in our area. I just want to say thank you for your views because we really need your input. In order for us to make a good recommendation we need your help. We can only sit here and listen to what you have to tell us and it is all recorded and before the next session we will be making an interim report. I would just like to say thank you. I have my sympathy with you. I had a real bad experience with housing with my parents before they died so I know exactly what you are talking about. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thanks, Eliza. I am very happy that you are able to come to this meeting and voice your main concern, and this is what we are here for, to hear your concerns. We will not destroy what you have said and during the tour of the special committee we will try to put together the problems of the communities. I am sure it is going to be pretty well the same all over. We will not get sick of the concerns of the people even if they are pretty well the same thing.

I was elected in 1974. Since then I have been trying to deal with this problem and it seems like it is not going too well, and the government is not believing us. So we felt that perhaps we should go to all the communities and listen face to face with the people of their problems.

I know that you can help us in recommending changes to the government. We will not be a committee forever. We are just going to deal with this to the end and we will make our recommendations. I do not think there will be another hearing in Pond Inlet, and for that I am very happy. I am sure we will see each other again and you will hear from time to time of the progress that we are making, and I just thank you now for coming.

---ADJOURNMENT



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF ARCTIC BAY, JUNE 6, 1984

(Speakers did not identify themselves in at this meeting)

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I think we could start the meeting. Your housing association wanted to meet with us before the public meeting. We ourselves do not have too much to say, we will just listen to what you have to say regarding housing. We also would like you to know everything you say will be recorded and they will be transcribed and you can say any concerns you have and we will be listening. We will probably be asking more questions than you, so if you have anything to say you can start.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I think I will be first to start as we have quite a bit of concerns we would like to tell you. We were happy to hear that you guys were coming over and we are very thankful that you are here. We welcome you and thank you very much for coming over. We have great concerns over housing. Perhaps we can give our presentation tonight at the meeting or now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Yesterday we were in Pond Inlet. The housing association in Pond Inlet wanted to meet us before the meeting last night regarding their concerns. So we had a meeting with the housing association and in the evening at the public meeting they repeated their concerns again. If you want to say your concerns now it is okay.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you. We have quite a bit of concerns that we would like you to hear regarding the Housing Corporation and the public. We are in between the Housing Corporation and the people and for the past few years we have been having a difficult time and we are elected by the people but we cannot go ahead with the work because of the Housing Corporation. It is very hard to deal with what we want to do because we always get stuck with the Housing Corporation. We try to push through what we want but we will just say our main concerns that we have right now. Our secretary and our board of directors will have some say in their concerns.

My first great concern is right now the Baffin Housing Federation. They have been dissolved, not quite dissolved but the chairmen of the associations are sitting at the housing federation and we do not have enough power because it is not running well. We had a meeting with the Housing Corporation and the Baffin Federation. The Housing Corporation produces policies for the housing association even before the people have heard about it. When there is a big conference they want approval from these chairmen when they are meeting and they make the policies and just give it to the people. The people that are concerned still have not heard and they give us these policies and there is nothing we can do to change anything in these policies. It is very difficult for us to do our work. I think the Baffin Housing Federation is the body that does approve this, so I wanted to mention this because I am not very satisfied with it. When we have to follow policies they have to be looked at before they get approval and people should have some say before they get approved and since this does not happen it is very difficult for us. I think you guys know that the policies are produced in the Assembly.

The second part that I am really concerned about is the Housing Corporation have the only say on when they are going to do a rehab in the communities. Even the housing associations are not approached to say that this house will be rehabed and they will not tell us which houses are going to be rehabed. They just write the letter to us and say that a certain house will be rehabed and they do not even ask us which house should be renovated or rehabed. This has caused us a lot of difficulty and they take a long time to renovate. They do too many things and the contractors take too long to finish the building. We were really concerned about the houses inside when they do not even finish them too quickly. This is one of the main problems we have in Arctic Bay.

The third one that is of great concern to us is that the Housing Corporation is set up if there is anything that has to be fixed, if the Housing Corporation produces something like a work order and if we also have something that we want to do, we cannot do it because one of the policies state that if the tenants are paying their rent then they are the first to get their house renovated. We try to get funding and it is very difficult because a lot of houses are too cold because there are draughts coming in all the time and there is a lot of other maintenance that has to be done. The funding always gets stuck and the Housing Corporation does not give us any funding. Even if we want to do some work on some of the houses we cannot do it because even if we try to tell the Housing Corporation it is very difficult to get any response. So these are the main things that we wanted to tell you. Perhaps our secretary can say some other concerns that we have because he is the one that collects all of our concerns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) These policies that are produced in the Assembly. I just want to make it clear that as representatives we are just like a body that has to approve but we do not make up the policies ourselves. Since the Housing Corporation has come up to the North that is what they have been doing and we are the special committee to try to change these policies that are directed to the North. We will want to be part of policy making and we get stuck too like you do when we want to do something. I want to make this clear.

MR. DANIEL AOLA: (Translation) Some of the comments I was going to make have already been said. First of all, our main problem with the Housing Corporation is that we do not have much communication at all. Being a secretary manager to the housing association the Housing Corporation does not give us a formal budget and the Housing Corporation never did, even if we record for budget, the Housing Corporation never approves any kind of budget for the housing association. So when we do not know the budget it gives us a problem but we have a forecast for a certain year but then there are other possibilities using the budget for certain emergencies. For example, the money we request, we do not even know how much we are going to receive and some policies that are implemented are not known to us and we are not given any authority on that. The Housing Corporation puts out the policy and just gives it to us and so there is a big problem in communication between the housing association and the Housing Corporation.

Also I would like to make some comments on rehabs. Some rehabs are getting smaller and the rooms are not even big enough for one person and all the rehabs do not have storage area or a porch. That is when the problem occurs. The program on rehabs has never been directed by the Housing Corporation to whether or not the housing association does have power on that. So that is one of the problems. That is all I have to say but I will make supplementary comments later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: Just to say again, the biggest concern the housing association has is trying to set up employment programs in construction, such as maintenance. We have been trying to set up a training program but right now we have difficulties. One of the problems is that when the Housing Corporation puts out the contract to the southern people -- after the contract when they arrive in the community they do not hire any native people. What I was trying to do when I was chairman, I was trying to provide more employment for the people but we have not been around that corner yet. Also we have been trying to use manpower for the training program on the rehabs but it comes when the contract has already been made. So we do not have any form of movement and we do not even know how many natives are working on the rehabs, so the plan was just given up. The rehabs had to be stopped for a while and we did not know how long they were going to be stopped for and the Housing Corporation never mentioned that to us, that the contract was going to be stopped. Right now we feel we are blamed that we are not putting out employment to the people in the community. That is one of our main problems. These are the main concerns I have. Perhaps other members can say something. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee Members? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) The part about the Housing Corporation, for example, you, as a secretary manager, does the Housing Corporation provide you with any kind of training program such as a course in Frobisher Bay or you mentioned you wanted better communication, have they tried that before?

MR. CHARLIE INURAG: (Translation) No, since I have held that position I have never gone down to Frobisher Bay on a course. There is no correspondence from the Housing Corporation. In the first place we used to have a secretary through our training but there has to be short courses offered to the secretaries in the maintenance area. So when we decided to pick Daniel I contacted the Housing Corporation to offer more courses and try to have a good communication between us but they never replied back to us for months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee Members? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: One point that has come up in all the communities that we have visited is that when southern contractors come up to northern communities to build houses they do not hire local people. I understand that there are people in town who are trained and that could build houses. Is that right?

A SPEAKER (Male): Yes, that is true. On those new houses or rehabs, as far as I know the housing association has nothing to do with it at all according to the Housing Corporation policies. Any contracts set out by the Housing Corporation, we cannot do anything about it. That is another problem we are facing. We cannot even decide who should work in the rehabs or new houses as local projects, because it has our debating the contract which was set out by the Housing Corporation.

MR. CHARLIE INURAG: (Translation) Just to answer his question. We had an agreement between the Housing Corporation and the housing association that we would try and put out employment to the native people, but the Housing Corporation disapproved the agreement, so we never had any employment opportunities to the community. I do believe we had a training program for two years and I am not sure if that program is going to continue. We are pretty sure now that it is going to be stopped. So if we are going to continue, I really think we can have trained people to do the construction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. That answers my question. Do you think that the housing association and the housing federations are weaker now than they were two years ago?

MR. CHARLIE INURAG: (Translation) Yes, definitely. They tried to dismantle the federation and then they don't recognize what they are trying to dismantle, our own organization. And then the power that was supposedly recognized earlier is not existing anymore.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: We are getting that same feeling from all the other communities. I think it is a very valid point. Another question on the same thing, right now the Housing Corporation will be building 250 new houses in the whole Territories, and the Housing Corporation decides which houses go to different communities. Would you think it would be better if the Baffin Region Housing Federation would decide themselves which communities in the Baffin should get new houses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie Inuraq.

MR. CHARLIE INURAG: (Translation) I would like to see that in the future definitely and if that is going to be the case, we would be very happy. I would be happy leaving the housing association because that is one of the main goals we are trying to push for and the community should themselves decide where the houses should be allocated within the region. At the present time there are some communities that have more houses than necessary and other communities have a shortage of houses and in that case they are still using those tilted buildings. This is a definite problem for the Housing Corporation because we have seen that some of the other communities have much more priority than the others. This is one of the main things that I would like to push for, using you as a channel and whether the regional communities can decide whether the houses should be allocated. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Red Pederson.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned that you have no input into the allocations or selection of rehab houses. Now, I notice you have six new houses being built right now. Before they came in did the Housing Corporation show you the blueprints and consult you on the design before they arrived?

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: (Translation) No, they never did. The buildings, when they finally arrived, the blueprints came in at the same time and we heard that there were definitely not going to be any new buildings built, but then fortunately through our MLA we were able to order new houses. Through that channel we finally received our new houses. That is what my understanding is.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: How do you like those new houses? What is your opinion of them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie Inuraq.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: (Translation) To answer the question, presently because we are part of the Housing Corporation, we cannot disagree. We have no choice but to go ahead because there is no power within our organization. We have never been consulted and never involved in the housing. Even if we do not like it, they build it anyway, and for that reason we cannot really answer your question at the present time. I will pass it on to my fellow colleagues. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I would like you to comment -- there was some talk before, someone said the rehab houses bedrooms are too small and there is no storage. If we do not step in and recommend changes then these new houses will be what we will be getting for sometime to come. However, what is the size of the bedroom in those, are they adequate? Is there enough storage? Because there seems to be very little to me. If you have looked at them, could you please comment?

A SPEAKER (Male): On those new houses they are adequate for small families, but for the big families in the settlement, we are having problems, they are still too small as far as I know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie Inuraq.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: (Translation) The rehabs at the present time, the size decreases a lot and even right now a large family has to move into them and those bedrooms, only one bed can go into that room and it seems as though they built them as a transient centre. They just sleep overnight and move out. But unfortunately the family will have to stay there for a long time in the future and that is one of our main problems and the housing association is getting all the blame for having all those small houses built.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) The comments that you are bringing out are interesting, but could you please slow down a little bit in order for the interpreters to catch the voices. We do not want to miss any of your concerns.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) First of all, I would like to ask, can we bring out any concerns?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) As long as it is about housing problems or concerns. You can be even angry to voice out your concerns because those words are not going directly to us. Those words are going to the Housing Corporation in order to work with the Housing Corporation.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The rehabs are a lot of problem with a lot of people here and I feel that it would be better if the Housing Corporation should consult with and ask questions with the housing association prior to starting on the rehab. If the Housing Corporation asks the housing association first whether they would be in agreement with their plan and furthermore consultation should be given to the housing association because we do not even know which ones are being built, they just come up here and say this is going to be built. That is one of our main problems. A lot of the tenants are in disagreement with the rehabs because the rooms are a lot smaller than the original size. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Female): The question that was asked by Mr. Pederson, was whether we like the new houses that are being built. To our understanding, from the completed buildings, there is some health hazards on these new buildings but we don't know what the reason was. Us being northerners, they are built to conserve heat and so those are the things that we have been advised about. Then we hear that there are health hazards and the Housing Corporation knows about these hazards especially with respiratory problems and with children playing inside. They are run by hot water and we definitely know that there will be damages done very fast. And those are the things that we have heard from representatives from the Housing Corporation.

Once they turn up the heat in those houses all the windows have to be opened and when you are sleeping at night the tenants definitely have to wake up in order to open the windows and I just want to ask whether you know about the situation? That is all I have to give to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: No, I didn't, but Penny Aumond just handed me a note saying that they are insulated with foam insulation. Now, I don't know if that's styrofoam SM, that is perfectly safe. If it is spray foam -- did they spray the insulation in? If it is spray insulation, some spray insulation is not good for you and maybe it should be checked into. I'd like to find out about it and check into it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): There are two different types of insulation and there is one that can be sawed and there is those that can be sprayed and he wants to know which one is being used on those new buildings.

A SPEAKER (Male): To my understanding the insulation is good, however there there is not enough draft and it is so airtight inside the buildings because they have two different heating systems, one is a space heater and the other is a boiler. When the hot water boiler is being used then the stove heater has to be turned off and if the space heater is on and once it is on, due to the fact that it is airtight they have to open all of the windows -- that's according to the written material that was sent to us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I would like to find out about this. The first time I saw these houses was in Grise Fiord the day before yesterday. We have not had any of these new houses in the Kitikmeot Region yet so I want to find out too from people. I thought that they were nice looking house, I thought the bedrooms are very small and there seemed to be very little storage and I was just wondering if I could get some comments from you on it.

A SPEAKER (Male): These new houses are only good for a small family and there is a small storage in them. The only danger that we see is the heating system and the airtight furnace. There's no control whatsoever. This is the only thing that we saw that is not too safe for the people that have sickness because if you have to turn up the heat you have to open some windows. When you have a vehicle in the garage, it is the same thing and it seems that this is the only dangerous part of the houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: One thing that would be very helpful to us, is that after people have moved into the houses and they find things wrong with the houses, the association can write us a letter and tell us all the problems you have with the houses, so that the next year and the year after the corporation can build houses without those problems.

A SPEAKER (Male): Yes, we understand quite well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: One of the things that never really made sense to me about the Housing Corporation is that it's being controlled from Yellowknife where they have their main office. If you look at housing, both in the East and the West, we have different conditions, different shipping routes. People in the East get all their materials shipped from Montreal and I guess the question I want to ask is, do you think it would be better if the corporation were divided into an east and a west, would the delivery of housing be more efficient for you? Anyone of you want to answer that?

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: Because I've been travelling to a lot of communities -- not regarding housing -- I think I know for sure that this would be a solution because we have different conditions and different climates, places are damp and some places are not too cold. Because of these conditions, yes, if it was divided that way it would help out a lot because it would go according to the conditions of the weather and the houses would go according to the conditions. I agree with what you suggested, but as somebody said, the Housing Corporation wants everything approved by the Assembly. How much power will you have after you do this tour? What kind of power will you have in recommending things? Because if your recommendations won't go anywhere I think we are just talking for nothing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I want you to know that because we are elected by you people, we will gather what you want and if we could get input from everybody then we'll have some power to do make changes. If you could make a motion and if they are approved -- there are 24 of us and if the recommendations are approved by the Assembly they will have to listen.

A SPEAKER (Male): I also have some concerns regarding the rehabs and the new houses. Since there has been houses built in Arctic Bay, the Housing Corporation has never asked the housing association what kind of houses they like to build. Sometimes this creates a lot of problems. Like the old houses that have been rehabed, the bedrooms are so small and the new houses that are being built right now, they are supposed to be energy efficient. After they are rehabed they make all these houses smaller than the original size. Also because they are using gyprock they are very easy to destroy or break. According to the Housing Corporation we should keep these houses in good condition so that they can last for a long time and it is very hard. That's what I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I want to ask you a question. If they put the insulation on the exterior side, not from the interior, would that make a difference? Would that be better for you guys?

A SPEAKER (Male): The size wouldn't change if they started renovating from exterior, the bedroom would stay the same size. The bedroom wall cannot have insulation, but if you started renovating from the outside it would be a lot better. If you started rehabing from the outside not the inside.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I want to go back to the new houses that are being built regarding the space heaters. If there were problems within the service to the house or the electricity was cut off by NCPCC, are you going to be using the same heater, even if the power is cut off?

A SPEAKER (Male): Just to answer your question, the Housing Corporation was not even going to give us some elaboration on that, so we will not be able to act on that matter. Perhaps the Housing Corporation thought that this could be used for an emergency case, so if they are going to use that heater the windows will have to be opened, so for sure we don't have much elaboration on that. They never gave us any points regarding the heater. In Cape Dorset we also have the same experience, they have the same houses but the residents of Cape Dorset were told that these heaters are used for emergency cases only. That is just for your information.

Secondly, the walls are made out of gyprock -- do you know why the Housing Corporation has put up gyprock or did they tell you anything about that?

A SPEAKER (Male): I think they were just following the fire regulations because wood burns easier. So it is for us, the housing association, to look after the gyprock walls.

CHARLIE: Just to make a supplementary comment on the brittleness of the gyprock. When there are a lot of people in one house, they easily bump into walls and break the walls and when they are in a small area or in a small house they tend to break the walls easily.

A SPEAKER (Female): I have some remarks to make. It is about the problem I have with the Housing Corporation. When we met in the spring, there were representatives from each community and the Housing Corporation was going to be put off if the associations are not following the policy and the Housing Corporation said that they might terminate some board of directors and I felt very unhappy about that and I wasn't the only one. He also mentioned that this could be implemented so that is one of the items I don't like.

So even if the board of directors are terminated, people would not have a place to pay for their bills and this would disrupt the whole thing. That's all of my remarks for the Housing Corporation part. A large number of old houses do not have any running water and since the people are paying for their rent -- sometimes people thought that even if they are living in old houses they would prefer to see running water in their houses. I think that's where the rehabs come in again. That's some of the problems we are experiencing in Arctic Bay. When the rehabs were being built they just raised up the whole building and the stairs were very steep and some of the kids fall down. Even when the people are approached the housing association -- that's when the problem comes in again because we can't do anything with those houses or the rehabs.

We have a lot of problems and the secretary now is living in a rehab building -- the dryer and washing machine is in the living room just beside the stove. They don't have any porches whatsoever and the older people sometimes get tired of hearing motors going on in the living room area. We tried to bring this up when we met in the spring, that the porches are very small and they replied that the porches are just to protect the house from the wind. So if they are going to be building the same rehabs, the people will not be satisfied. I am sure the people will not go for those rehabs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Since the government started building houses for people to live in, and I guess its about 25 years now, starting with the old rigid frame houses. I've never counted, but I am sure there must have been 20 different designs at least. Has there ever been a design that you liked?

A SPEAKER (Male): With the design we cannot do anything about them and those designs are being made by experts down south and people in Arctic Bay know which ones they don't like. The Housing Corporation has never, never asked any people from Arctic Bay which house would they prefer from those designs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: If this committee recommended that a design committee, say, a Baffin design committee was set up, with representatives from your regional housing body, perhaps representatives from your regional women's association to get some input as to how the kitchen should be and how much storage -- would we end up with a better house, do you think?

A SPEAKER (Male): Definitely and they would already know the problems within the community itself. Because the community already know the existing problems and the community then would definitely would be helpful because the experts in the community would be telling the designers which ones would be suitable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: (Translation) Yes, we would definitely like to see an organization where we can be involved in the design of a house. In the past we have heard that one side of a house is drafty and the other side is good, for those reasons the tenants kind of refuse to pay. But then if the tenant is happy about the suitability of the house, then they would be more willing to pay for their rent.

Another problem is that they don't like the place where they are staying and at the same time they have to pay for what they don't like. I think that in the future if they start to have buildings suitable for the tenant then the tenant would definitely be more willing to pay their rent. Yes, definitely the Inuit should have an say in the design of any particular house that will be built in the North.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any Member from the special committee who would like to ask. Mr. T'Selele.

MR. T'SELEIE: This is just a general question. I wonder how the housing association sees the Housing Corporation -- how they feel about the Housing Corporation spending their money. Do you think that the Housing Corporation spends its money properly or well?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Aola.

MR. DANIEL AOLA: (Translation) The housing association has never been informed as to how the Housing Corporation is using their money. For that reason, we brought up that subject that there is not enough consultation with the housing association and the Housing Corporation and for that reason we cannot simply just answer.

A SPEAKER (Male): Personally, I felt that the Housing Corporation uses very large amounts of money and that the money that they use is definitely going to the wrong areas. And the Housing Corporation do not even recognize some of the housing associations. The renovations are furnished and the Housing Corporation themselves just send in the furniture without any housing associations' consultation and for that reason when the furniture comes in, the Housing Corporation does not even let us handle the material when it arrives. For that reason the dampness and the wet usually destroys the furniture. Some of the rehabs have to be stopped because they are using a lot of money and some of the materials that they bought are being wasted. The housing associations are not being asked to help out when the materials arrive here. For that reason large amounts of money are being wasted because they don't work with us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further questions from the special committee?

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) I missed out one of my comments earlier. When I referred to the rehabs -- when they put them high up from the ground and sometimes they just lift them up from the ground and wait for so many years before the rehab is actually started, children start falling and hurt themselves. That is one of the main problems, because of the accidents from little children and that's the main concern of the families that live in these highly raised buildings. Sometimes some of the rehabs, when they are being built -- the outside you can see through some of the cracks on the bottom and once that happens there is a lot of draft coming in and the furnace has to be used very much. And they have to wait for a time before they start building and the consultation with the housing association is very minimal and for that reason it is a great problem within our community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: (Translation) Supplementary and probably my last comment is that the Housing Corporation has set up another project that is very disagreeable to me. They are trying to establish that if a tenant owes too much money then they are trying to take them to court in order for them to pay. If the tenant was to appear in court and then if he still cannot pay that rent then he would end up in jail. For that reason, I definitely disagree with that proposal because last year we had meetings and tried to use all the power we have. Many people here who have so large amount of rent to pay -- when we had good discussion with them then they started paying up that rent which they owed. So I felt if we had more power as a housing association then we definitely would not be having to go through court because we would be able to deal with them individually ourselves. In that way it would be more smooth running and if that policy is going to go through and it is decided to take the tenant to court in order for them to pay their rents, as Inuit we would definitely cry in our body because we are, you know, disagreeing with that proposal and that is our very main concern. I definitely have quite a few more concerns but these are the main concerns and I would like to thank you at this time for giving me the opportunity to speak.

A SPEAKER (Male): I have a question. I wonder if the Housing Corporation hears about the operations of the housing associations in the communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I cannot really answer you because we are not working for the Housing Corporation and we are not staff of the Housing Corporation but if you want to ask that question we can direct it to the Housing Corporation. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: The Housing Corporation definitely will hear about the concerns that you have brought out today. Every word that is being spoken is being recorded, it will be transcribed and written out and the Housing Corporation will also be getting copies of these transcripts so any concerns that have been raised today, they will certainly hear about those.



A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I still have a little bit more to say. There was a guy from the Housing Corporation in Frobisher and he told us that he will try to inform us as to the operation of the Housing Corporation. We would definitely like to know how they operate because I don't think they hear enough of what we do in the communities and the operations of the housing associations in the North and their progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I feel myself, perhaps now that there is a special committee they will know more of what is happening. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just want to make a comment regarding tenants being summoned to go to court. The Housing Corporation is supposed to be giving services to the needs of the people and certainly it's not doing that if you are taking people to court because they owe rent. The rent scale the way it is set up now, it is based on the federal rent scale and we should not have to follow it at the community level but unfortunately this is what they are pushing on us. In my area we have that same problem, where the Housing Corporation has money to hire lawyers and they are taking people to court and they are even told that if they have any vehicle or any valuable that it will be seized. So that is another area that we will be making a real strong recommendation because certainly we are not doing people any service if they are going to be taken to court and they are to be put in jail because they cannot keep up their rent. Their rent scale is not even based according to our need but according to the federal needs, where they have running water and appliances and everything in their houses. So that is all the points that I want to make and we will certainly be taking all the recommendations and your views that you have mentioned today. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I just want to clarify that point. Has the Housing Corporation directed the association to serve people with legal action. They want the association to do that? If they do not pay their rent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Charlie.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: (Translation) We still have not definitely told us to do so but when Baffin Housing Federation had a meeting the Housing Corporation wanted the federation to approve the policies that they make. Myself, I did not really go into it because I completely disagree with it. I do not know if they told us, but I am not going to support them at all in this case, if they want us to bring people to court. So for that reason I have never got into it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I want to ask Jake a question as he said there was somebody from the Housing Corporation. When was he in town or in the community?

JAKE: (Translation) Just a few days ago. I have forgotten the exact date, I think it was around May 22.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any more questions or comments from the special committee? What about the housing association?

A SPEAKER (female): (Translation) The problem of housing has not been with the Inuit all their lives because we used to build our own houses so we used to be satisfied with the way it was made. If we start bringing the older people to court, regarding rents, I am sure the older people will try to go back to the old ways of life, like building their own houses. I know a lot of people know how to make a very good insulated house. If they start doing that there will be a lot of empty houses belonging to the housing association if people are going to be brought to court. I feel that they are not going to stay in that house. This would be a very bad situation and I definitely disagree with bringing tenants to court. The families must have food and clothing and the cost of living is just increasing all the time like gasoline and stuff like that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Daniel.

MR. DANIEL AOLA: I would like to point out two things about the housing association. First of all about housing association security. We do not have any security at all, according to the Housing Corporation. If the Housing Corporation wants us to stop, we would stop right away because we do not have the power to keep on going. That is another problem which we are about to face, if the Housing Corporation wants to get rid of us. Another thing is about the federation. The federation is funded by the Housing Corporation as far as I know. If the Housing Corporation does not want the federation any more on the housing associations, there is no problem for the Housing Corporation to stop the housing federation too. Those are the two points I wanted to make.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the special committee? What about from the board of directors of the housing association. We will be meeting again tonight at 7:00 o'clock so if you have any more concerns that you want to mention tonight feel free to say anything you want to tell us.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We will try to give you a presentation. There will be a meeting at 8:00 o'clock.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

ARCTIC BAY, JUNE 6, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Just before we start perhaps someone can say the opening prayer for the meeting.

---Prayer

Thank you. I would like to say I am sorry because we probably stopped you from what you were going to do this evening. We are sorry for that. We are just sort of in a rush and we could not start started earlier because we had some problems. There was no accommodation and we had a hard time getting interpreters. So that is the reason why we had to delay this meeting and we just started touring and that is the way it is.

We would like to thank all of you for coming to the meeting and I am sure you will have some concerns you wish to state. All the communities that we have visited -- there were not all that many people that came to the meeting. This is all right as long as some people come to the meetings and state their concerns.

The Special Committee on Housing consists of six elected MLAs and four alternate MLAs appointed by the Legislative Assembly in February 1984, to investigate the concerns of the people in the communities have about housing. The special committee will also reveal the operations of the NWT Housing Corporation.

First of all I will introduce the committee Members. The person on my left, the tallest one in the committee, Mike Ballantyne, who is MLA for Yellowknife North; and on my left here, who is not bigger than me is Joe Arlooktoo, who is from Lake Harbour; on my right is Joe T'Seleie from below the treeline; and next to John is Eliza Lawrence also from the West, an elected Member; and our second tallest person is Red Pederson from Coppermine area. And we also have some support staff who have been working very hard preparing the meetings and whenever people have something to say she will record them down and look after them. She sits beside the door, she has curly hair, Penny Aumond. She will be helping us for a couple of months. Also the interpreter Jaypote Akeegoak, who we picked up from Grise Fiord; Jonassie Akumalik, originally from Arctic Bay who is now living in Clyde River and Malley Curley from Frobisher. These are our three interpreters.

We would like to thank the community councils for their invitation to have this Special Committee on Housing visit and hold public hearings. The committee will hold public hearings in the 10 Baffin communities this month. Over the next six months, about 40 communities will be visited. The NWT Housing Corporation will also be reviewed by the committee. An interim report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this fall. The final report will contain recommendations based on the community hearings in NWTHC review. It is to go to the communities and those recommendations are to make improvements in the housing at the community level.

The community hearings are the first step in finding out what people would like to see happen with housing. It will not be possible to make any promises about what the committee will be able to do. The committee has to consider the housing situation throughout the NWT and look at where the money would come from for any changes it might suggest. The committee has a responsibility to make sure that the recommendations it makes are realistic and positive, recommendations that would solve at least some of the major problems we are now dealing with. Therefore we welcome your suggestions for improvement and encourage you to share your views with us. If you would like to speak please step up to the microphone at the table and also state your name for the record. The interpreters

will translate your remarks simultaneously and your comments will also be recorded so that the transcripts of the hearing can be produced. We will also give copies of the transcript to the Housing Corporation and housing association. The headsets used for translation are fragile so we ask that you not allow the kids to play with them. At the end of the meeting just leave the receivers at your chair and the support staff will look after them. We will have our representative from the Western Arctic give some comments. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also thank you to everyone for inviting us here to listen to your views and concerns. Before we had housing come into the Northwest Territories a lot of us had our own homes. We did not experience anything like what we have today, we have a lot of problems with housing. In my area we have similar problems, although we encourage our people to own their own homes and ones that they can build. But just the same, many people are unable to own homes so they have to live in this public housing. Some problems are similar to what you people are experiencing today.

I am sure a lot of you people think we are just sitting here and talking for nothing, but I remember a time when I used to sit in the crowd and used to think the same. Now that we are elected Members, I am hoping that we will make some strong recommendations. They will have to listen to us because there is enough of us in our committee, and we will be making so much noise that they will have no choice but to make some changes to the better. Before I had mentioned that we had our own homes, I express a lot of problems with my parents before they died. We had a house made out of logs which was built by my grandfather where I was born and raised. When the housing came into the Northwest Territories they asked my parents to move into this home for \$2 a month and over a period of time they would be owning that home. After a short while being in that house, the rent went up and when my mother died in 1975 they tried to kick my dad out. By then our home that was well taken care of made of logs was destroyed by the housing association, they tore it down and we had a lot of nice appliances, we had everything in it. Up until today I do not know what happened to it, and when my dad died we lost the housing all together. Today when I come back into Fort Resolution I absolutely have no place to go except to my brothers. Because of that a lot of people lost their own homes as well, thinking they would be owning this home. But as it turns out they put the rent scale to a federal level where they make a lot of money. Even if people have three children, a single parent making \$900 a month, they still have to go according to that 25 per cent...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence, you are going to fast. Just slow down please. Thank you.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Okay. The rent scale is according to the federal rent scale and it is really causing a lot of problems. I understand that Housing is here to do us a service and to look after the needs of the people. But as it is turning out, it is hardship to some of the people when they cannot keep up with the rent, it is getting that people are receiving notices from the lawyers -- they have to go to court or to jail if that cannot keep up with their rent. That is not providing services to the needs of the people. Because we have so many problems with the housing in my area, when Ludy made that motion to form a Special Committee on Housing, I was the one who seconded the motion and I hope I can say at this time that we are here to really try to make some changes but I cannot say that at this time, I can only say that whatever you say will be recorded and feel free to say anything regarding your views and concerns. That is why we are here, to listen to you and we will make recommendations according to your concerns. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I would like to say again that I would like you to be aware of not feeling bad for saying anything. We are not working for the Housing Corporation. Also we are not trying to help the Housing Corporation and we do not work for the government. We are mainly working for you and we want to bring up your concerns and you should not feel bad about that. So please do not hesitate to say anything on your concerns. We have tried for example, the people from here and people from Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay have been trying to say everything on the housing matters and I have been trying to bring that up in the Legislative Assembly and it seems like the people in the Legislative Assembly did not believe me. So one time when I tried to bring up the housing matter, they did not believe me, so I brought up a motion to set up a Special Committee on Housing to investigate the people of the Northwest Territories to hear their concerns, so try not to treat us any better. But if there are any questions from you we will not be able to answer them because we are not working for the Housing Corporation. Although the questions that you direct to us will not be left behind but will be recorded and will be transcribed and then the questions can be directed to the NWT Housing Corporation. I am going to ask if some of the members

from here wish to make any presentations and after that I will ask the people to make presentations and come up to the table for their remarks. Are there any comments to be made from the table? There are no comments, so I will ask the floor if anyone will make comments. Please state your name.

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Aimo Mukpaluk from Arctic Bay. I have a concern for quite awhile regarding having to go through the courts. The matter of going through the courts has hurt me a lot when the tenants have not enough money to pay for their rent. I have thought of a way. The housing association board of directors, who are elected, should have more power because the board of directors directly know the people of the community, so I would like you to consider this matter while you are here. Also be aware of the climate we have up here, so that if we are evicted the people would get sick and the water tank will freeze, so it would be a health hazard to the residents. I am not very happy when the courts have to come here to the community, so if the housing association would have more power I would be satisfied and if the tenant cannot pay their rent I would not be happy then to go through the courts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Could you sit at the table for a minute in case there are questions from the special committee Members. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to ask a question. How many people got a court notice?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: (Translation) The matter of going to the courts has not started in the community but we are aware now in the future that the courts will be implemented. That is all I can answer. I have not seen anyone going to the courts as of yet.

MRS. LAWRENCE: In my area I notice there are about 10 people that received court notices. That is why I asked.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any more questions from the table? Thank you, Mr. Mukpaluk. If you wish to come back to the table, please do. Anybody from the audience? If there are no more presentations we can adjourn. Could you please state your name please so that it can be recorded.

MR. PHILIP QAMANIQ: (Translation) My name is Philip Qamanik from Arctic Bay. My presentation refers to the concern of the tanks. Sometimes the tanks are leaking -- most of the time. In the older houses the wood gets rotten and sometimes the wood on the door doesn't work very well, so it is very bad for the kids to use during the winter. Especially on the water tanks when the door is too close. So I am not satisfied with this matter. Sometimes in the winter most of the houses have to be covered with snow to prevent cold drafts from coming into the house. So in Arctic Bay the houses are getting worse every year but the Housing Corporation is working on the rehabs and they are poorly done. So most of the concerns that I hear from the residents of the community is that rent scales are too high and houses are very poorly built. In the older houses the water tanks are very poor and do not seem to fit the houses and some of them have bad wiring. These people are paying high rents for these houses. These are some of the concerns that I have heard from the community of Arctic Bay during the winter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the table? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I don't think I quite understand, are you talking about the wiring in the building? I would like to ask regarding that matter if the Housing Corporation looks after the houses regarding the wiring. In the poorer houses is the Housing Corporation in Frobisher Bay responsible for the wiring in those houses?

MR. PHILIP QAMANIQ: (Translation) I am not quite sure who does that but they allowed us to move into the house. We have moved into houses where there is bad wiring and sometimes the rooms have to be used. Our housing association had tried to consult with the Housing Corporation in Frobisher Bay, but they have never succeeded. So the wiring in most of the houses does not work properly. I know that the maintenance men are willing to work on them but they do not have the proper equipment. Again I would like to ask a question on some of the public houses and the rehabs.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Which houses are you referring to?

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MR. PHILIP QAMANIQ: (Translation) I am referring to the old houses, but I think the wiring in the rehab houses are better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any more from the special committee? Thank you. Any more presentations to be made? It doesn't have to be a very good presentation. I would like you to be aware that when there are questions sometimes the interpreters sometimes fall behind. So it would be better if you let the interpreters finish first. Can you state your name please.

MR. OLAYUK KIGUTIKARJUK: (Translation) My name is Olayuk Kigutikaarjuk. I am quite hesitant to say, but I would like to state my concerns. I would like to say that the Arctic Bay houses are not very spacious. It is not the space but we have to know that a certain house is right for a huge family or a medium size family. So we feel that we just pay rent to sleep in the house. It makes us very unhappy to pay high rent. We also try to make warm clothing. There is a lack of space in the building to work on our clothing and the housing association here, when they request for something, I would be glad that if their request would be accepted immediately. For the future the houses are too small for space because some have too large of families and we just do not want to leave these children alone. For that reason I would like to see that if a house is requested for a community, they should immediately react upon the request because we cannot build our own huts anymore. It seems like we are just losing money and I do not seem to be happy because I am reluctant to have an employee in our house. If somebody is employed they have to pay very high rent and the heat is alright for the house, but it seems that the house is not really a home, it is just a shelter for the tenants. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee? Thank you.

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Aimo Mukpaluk from Arctic Bay. Another thing that I do not agree with is the contractors that come up here to our community. The Inuit are not hired locally and that is one thing that I totally disagree with. We are asked to pay a large amount for rent and at the same time they are not giving us employment to pay for this rent. I totally disagree with this. The contractors in the past used to hire local people when they built houses, but at the present time, especially 1984, the contractors do not even hire Inuit. The Housing Corporation asks us to pay rent but we have no employment. If you would like to ask questions, please feel free.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think it is a very good point you are making that there are no local people hired. I understand that in your community there are people trained to build or rehab houses. Is that correct?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: Some of them are involved in rehabs, but there are not enough local people hired to build new houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understood that in the past the Housing Corporation provided training programs. Do you think there should be more training programs to teach people how to build houses and to rehab houses?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: Yes definitely I have had this concern for some time now because the training programs are ideal, especially for those people who have completed school, because some of the people who complete school do not seem to go ahead in the community with the education they have received.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I am going to ask a question that you never brought up in your presentation, one that I ask in all communities. The materials for houses, they arrive in fall only and you start to build in the fall. Should they wait for spring to build these houses or should they start to build immediately when the ship arrives with the materials?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: Personally I feel they should wait, especially for the paddings and the foundations. They should wait for the following year to set up the paddings because once the ground starts to melt the paddings built during winter seems to shift.

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Some of the buildings have hollow steel foundations, would that be better for the building or should they wait for spring to start building these foundations? Those hollow pipes that they use for foundations is the best, the hollow pipes reach the permafrost and they should have them closer together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: First of all I would like to ask something regarding the court summons. This matter of the Housing Corporation going through courts to pay rent. Do you know if the Housing Corporation have the authority to summon the tenants to appear in court.

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: This matter was dealt with with the federation and our representative came back to report and we have heard that the court system will start this fall.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: Resolute and Frobisher are using a user-pay system for electricity. Has this been introduced to the community of Arctic Bay yet?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: We have heard about it, but paying electricity bills is not my great concern. The only problem with the user-pay system is, if I owe too much to the housing association for electricity they could cut off my electricity immediately.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: Another question I would like to ask you. The minimum rent for a house is about \$32 and the maximum is around \$500, is that a major problem for this community? Because some of them are probably paying between 16 and 25 per cent of their salary for rent. Does this create a problem? I would like to hear more about this rental scale system because the Housing Corporation set up these scales and the tenants have to pay the rents. Do you think you should be involved in setting up the scale?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: I have thought about this rental scale system because recently after three months they have increased their rents and that has created a lot of problems for many of us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further questions from Members of the special committee. Any further concerns?

MRS. QAP'IK ATTAGUTSIK: I have concerns regarding rehabs. We are living in a rehab house and there are quite a few of us in the building. I do not like the windows, they are not suitable for the North. In the winter they are frozen shut and you cannot open them. They are alright if it is not cold. I am wondering if more suitable windows could be found for northern houses. There are no air holes, they should have air holes. Older Inuit in the North need air for their bodies. This is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any questions? Mr. Ettuk.

MR. PANEKPAK ETTUK: My name is Panekpak Ettuk from Arctic Bay. I have some comments regarding housing because I have some problems. When the houses were first being built, the government stated that the rent would always be low, later on the rent went up and now we are having problems with drafty houses. The contractors from down South build the houses too fast and they don't build them properly. Inuit should help with the construction because they know the North and how to build houses properly for the conditions in the North. I am very disappointed in the people the government send to the communities, I am very disappointed in them because they are always borrowing our tools. They used to use my tools and they don't pay me for using them but I wanted it that way.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is there any questions from the committee? Mr. Akikuluk Shappa.

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: The question you asked Mr. Chairman, regarding the materials, I will try to answer it. Perhaps the paddings should be built the year before the houses are built to level it properly. If there is going to be 10 houses coming in this year, perhaps the padding should be done the year before the houses are built. When the materials come in by ship, we are anxious to put up the house. If the paddings are done prior to the materials arriving perhaps we could start building sooner.

According to the authority of the housing association there is not enough power to do a major project that they want within the community. Many times the housing association are not listened to. I think the Inuit wishes could be followed if they housing association were given more power to do what they want. They are just given some funding to maintain the houses. The only power that they have is to appoint people to houses and collect rent. They can't even do any work that they want to do because there is no funding. When you are a tenant you want to use the board of directors of the housing association but you get stuck because they have no power to do the work they want. For example -- which houses would be suitable for the North. Because the housing association does not have enough power, it is very hard to do what we want to improve the situation.

Another concern that I have is regarding the contractors that build the houses in our community. The people in the community should be approved first. When we try to tell the Housing Corporation through our housing association that people in the community want contracts -- if there is going to be a contract local people should be approached because they would build the houses better and care about it because they live in the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I want to ask you about Inuit doing the contracting for public housing. When you say that Inuit should have the contracts, I guess what you mean is that the Inuit should build the house right from the start to the finish. Is that clear? What do you mean by Inuit being more involved in contractors.

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: I will try and explain what I meant when I made a statement about contracting. I did not really totally say that Inuit should get the contract but I was talking about local people, including white people in the communities, they should be given top priority. Also they will do a better job because they know it will be beneficial for the community. The southern contractors don't really care because they are going back down South once they've made their buck.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any other questions? Mr. Kigutikaqjuk.

MR. IKEY KIGUTIKAQJUK: I have some brief remarks to make. I am concerned about the rent scales they are being raised frequently. The rehabs are being done very poorly. The contractor gets away with the money. The rent goes up once the houses are rehabed. I do not like the idea of increasing the rent too often. Most of the times the rent is put up before the rehabs are finished. I do not like that idea. I would like to see an inspection on the rehab from top to bottom and then consider raising or lowering the rent. It does not make sense to raise the rent when the rehabs are not finished. I am not satisfied with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: For how long before the house was finished was the rent put up?

MR. IKEY KIGUTIKAQJUK: I am not quite sure, but when the houses are finished we see that the rent goes up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more presentations?

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: I seem to have forgot something I was going to say about rents. We had some difficulties in increasing our hourly pay. When we were working on the houses we never got any raises because of cuts in the budget and we are not satisfied with that.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I wonder if you would explain that a little more. Are you talking about people who are maintaining the houses or people working for a contractor building or rehabing a houses.

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: I am referring to my employer here. We don't get any raise and the rent increases. Are you clear on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Inuraq.



MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: I think there are a lot of concerns brought forward to you and some problems that the people have encountered. The Housing Corporation is trying to implement home-ownership but the housing association workers have no power whatsoever. We as a housing association do not have any policies set out on home-ownership. I would like to bring up the matter to you so that we as a housing association can consult with you when a person is applying for home-ownership. The board of directors should be involved in home-ownership. Last year a person had waited for over a year for home-ownership and we thought we would get a quick reply from the Housing Corporation but we did not and we could not say anything to the person that was applying, so therefore people are not satisfied with the Housing Corporation.

Another thing I would like to say is that you, as Members of the Legislative Assembly are investigating housing matters, perhaps the housing association can have more good consultation with the Housing Corporation. I would like to direct that question to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): The question you directed to us could be implemented in our recommendations after the report is made. At present we cannot answer your question. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think the chairman is aware that 75 per cent of the money to build new houses comes from the federal government. The federal government has many rules so that the Housing Corporation can get that money. Has the Housing Corporation explained to you very clearly, the rules they have to follow with the federal government in order to get money to build houses in the North?

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: I can only answer that the federal government never consults us about their policies. We are just a stepping stone. They never communicate with them. We have to bug them a lot and invite them to come to the community and they never invite us to let us see their policies. Earlier today I have said that the secretary manager consults with the Housing Corporation. Our secretary manager is new and we have asked them to put our secretary manager on a course but the Housing Corporation never came here to let our secretary manager be on the course.

When we receive the funds there is already a forecast set by the Housing Corporation and the housing association has no power to make changes on the budget forecast. They have cut off some membership from the board of directors. Even last year we almost were in a bad situation when a member was cut from the board, but they never showed us their policies.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Today we had a very good meeting, about two hours with your housing association. It seems to me that they have a very difficult job, and they are trying very hard. We as a committee will really try to help them do their job better. The question I have is, right now the policies of the Housing Corporation are decided by the board of directors of the Housing Corporation and the board of directors are chosen by the Minister. Do you think it would be better if the federations of housing recommended to the Minister who should be on the board of directors of the Housing Corporation?

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: I would like to see that happening in the future because they have very strong bearing in the community. Personally I have thought of this recommendation in order to these organizations to appoint or make recommendations to have someone on the board of directors of the Housing Corporation. The member doesn't necessarily be from BRC or the federation or the housing association board of directors. Definitely yes, I would like the Minister to take our recommendations.

We have another problem in the housing association. Some of the homes are not adequate for the tenants because some people have health problems. These buildings should be suitable for the tenants because some of these buildings are in terrible shape. We try to put some recommendations to the Housing Corporation but they turned us down and they sent us through different channels. That is one of our main problems in our system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: A problem that we heard in other communities is the difficulty that handicapped people have in getting in and out of a house. For example people in wheelchairs or people that cannot walk very well. Do you have any problems like this in your community?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Inuraq.

MR. CHARLIE INURAQ: I cannot answer that. At the present time there are no handicapped people here. It is very clear that in the future there is going to be more and more handicapped people in our community. So at the present time Social Services and the woman's group here service these handicapped people and we praise the people in the community who help these people. So we need houses more suited to the tenants. For example, down South if I move into a house that is very low I would have a hard time breathing. And if I move into a nice house, roof and all, that would make a better life for the family. So we would like to have power to make houses suitable for the tenants. We would make designs or renovate it to make it suitable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, any further question from the special committee? Mrs. Aliquq.

MRS. KAUTAQ ALIGUQ: I have lived in Arctic Bay for a long time. Those 25 per cent scales are too high for me. I would like that changed. Also the three bedroom houses are definitely too small for a family with more than three children. Personally I have experienced this situation. Also this years rehabs, the steps being built for 1984 are very dangerous for old or handicapped people. They are dangerous because they are so high. We would like these people to have proper places.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just want to ask her a question on the designing of the house. It seems it is the woman who ends up staying in the house and working with the children -- would the women of the community like to be consulted in the designing of the homes? I heard somebody saying that there was not enough room for her sewing especially if there are other children around. There is not enough room for her to work. Would it be proper for them to be invited and involved in the designing of the home so there would be proper storage and working area for the housewives.

MRS. KAUTAQ ALIGUQ: Yes you are right on and I agree with you. If they are going to start designing buildings, the woman should definitely be involved in the design because their land is inside the building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Further question. Mr. Pearce.

MR. FRANK PEARCE: My name is Frank Pearce, secretary manager in Arctic Bay. If I say something that has already been stated it because I arrived late, and I apologize for that. For a couple of years we have had a person come in to supervise the rehabs and the retrofits. There is only one supervisor and several local people involved in training on the job. Then all of a sudden another contractor arrived and brought in people from other sources, mainly from down South. The expertise in the community was not put to full use, in fact not put to use at all. It so happened, that you might have already found out from the housing association that the group of people that arrived did a very poor job and they ended up doing a lot of work that they already did.

One thing that we need most of all is training. Why the same type of program that was in here in previous years was not continued, I do not know. Sometimes there are problems with the supervisor but I think that these are some of the things we have to put up with in order to try and get a training program properly instituted. The people who have been trained -- the people who have experience, are known by the housing association and I am sure they can keep an inventory of the potential employees. So that should the Housing Corporation or contractors wish to find out who is available and what skills and experience these people have they can obtain information from this source.

Several comments that local contractors make is that they have a job to do. They want to be able to do it in the most economical way possible and they bring people that they know who have the skills, they bring in people who they feel will be able to work hard for a long period of time to get the job done and get it done effectively. They argue that to hire locally would be to hire people that they are not sure of, whose lifestyle they say is probably not principled on the work ethic, that they would not work at the same intensity, the same speed or the same reliability. I can understand a person who does know the North, coming into the North having these ideas in his head. However we should impress upon them that there is nothing wrong with the people so much as usually -- the supervisor, a good supervisor can get the best out of almost anybody. So I would like to see that the contracts are far more specific about hiring local people. In fact what I would like to see done throughout the whole Territories is that representatives from the housing

association be present when the contracts are drawn up, so that the housing association representatives can have a say as to what they feel the contractors should examine. It also gives the representatives of the housing association an opportunity to learn something about the complications of drawing up contracts. The difficulties of them being confronted with, in obtaining supplies and getting the right contractor. There is a lot to be learned. But I think what should be done is that you have representatives from the housing associations involved in this process because I think this is where a lot of education would come from.

I would also like to support many of the comments that have been previously made about the design. Again here is an opportunity to have housing representatives, during the architectural design of the houses -- have each of the architects come into the communities. I support Kautaq's comment whole-heartedly. Also the size of the houses are desperately small, we have got some new houses down here, and they look very nice but if you go inside the bedroom they are even a lot smaller than in other houses. This gives me a rather bad feeling that someone has not done their homework properly. There is not enough room for storage space. Fortunately a lot of houses down South have basements where they can put their belongings into, here they do not and the space seems to be lacking.

Last comment that I have to make is regarding the materials that are to be used. I know that the size of the house and the materials that are being used determine the overall cost. When we are operating in an economy that tells us that we have not much money to spend, then I can understand that they want to try and cut down on the size and the materials but I think this is not economical in the long-run. I have worked as a construction worker myself, building some of the Weber units here for a couple of years and I certainly cannot vouch very highly for the materials that are being used, they are poor. They send up the stuff that is left over -- this is what it seems to me when we use it. Materials that fall apart easily, crack. To give you an idea, a contractor here who is a local contractor decided not to put nails in the floor but to use screws, because what was happening before was the wood was twisting, forcing the nails up. The screws came up also.

---Laughter

The wood is supposed to be treated before it arrives here. If they do not know what sort of climate they are going to be building their houses in, they should find out and get the materials that will stand up to that climate. There is enough technology today to be able to choose materials and even to make designs of houses that are suited for the North. I have spoken with a few architects -- this was many years ago -- who came up with many ideas, because it was so long ago I cannot remember the names, I cannot assist you with who these people are, but they are out there. I think that it all I have to say at the present moment, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Your comments were very helpful to us. I am going to ask you a really tough question, and I do not know if you can answer it. We have heard in every community that the housing associations are really frustrated whether a lack of control over how houses are built and when they are built. Now if you were to make recommendations over a period of time that a housing association would be able to build their own houses, have input into the design contracts and generally have a lot more power in how houses are built, how they are maintained. Have you thought through a process of how you would do that, what would you recommend? It is a toughy?

MR. FRANK PEARCE: You mean you want me to just speal off the top of my head. I cannot give you an answer off the top of my head that would really fully answer the question, but I would like to think about it and try and give you an answer later on. One of the obvious things that come to mind immediately is training, training people in the communities to be able to handle a lot of these jobs. It is simple to say that we have ideas of what we would like to do, but to put these ideas into practical use, is sometimes a far more difficult thing. One of the reasons why I suggested before about having a representative from the housing association attend the meetings of the Housing Corporation when they are drawing up the contracts -- I do not know if that would be of any value. There might be a lot of other types of that sort of thing that can be done. Not having the knowledge of everything that is involved, I cannot completely answer but that is just the general thing of what I was saying.

MR. BALLANTYNE: We would appreciate it if you thought about it and you wrote us a letter with your ideas. We would also very much appreciate if the housing associations got together and thought about the powers that they want and give us some ideas about how you think you could become stronger. That would be very, very helpful to us. This committee will not be coming back to the community but if you do come up with some ideas, write to us, we can incorporate those into our recommendations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk); Mr. T'Selele.

MR. T'SELEIE: When you were talking before you were talking about some instance where the contractors built houses and another contracting company had to come in and rebuild the same houses. Was that here in Arctic Bay?

MR. FRANK PEARCE: Yes it was here. There was one contractor to do the rehabs. In fact the funny thing was that the contracting company subcontracted this other group of people to come in. They have since left, they did not know what they were doing, they didn't have the skills. Now the contracting company who had to use some of their better labourers, who are building the new houses here to also go over the retrofits. It was a fault of the contractor, it think, hiring these people in the first place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk). Thanks very much Frank. Any further questions? Mr. Shappa.

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: (Translation) The thing that I wanted to talk about has not been touched, about the housing association having to have a policy. They need a by-law within their board of directors. We cannot even see the policies of the Housing Corporation. The housing association's board of directors mandate should be definitely specified in the future. When an organization is set up it is always better to have a mandate, as there will be problems encountered along the way. If the policies are going to be implemented the communities should be involved in implementing those policies as we do not know what is going to be implemented regarding the housing. When the policies are being prepared the residents of the community should be involved. When the Housing Corporation approves the policies -- it would be a lot better if the communities were consulted. Right now, in fact, we run into problems as board of directors, due to lack of by-laws which are supposed to be given us from the Housing Corporation, as to how much power we have. So I recommend to the special committee that the Housing Corporation consult with the housing association in the communities when implementing policies. The policies should be the same for both the Housing Corporation and the housing associations. Right now if they set up policies there is going to be a problem. When we try to make some plans we find we have to go back and forth before we get it right. The two organizations should know what each other is doing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I would just like to clarify that. It is a very good point. If I understand you correctly, the housing associations are not consulted before the Housing Corporation decide their policies?

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: I am not too concerned about the consultation between the housing association and the Housing Corporation. What I am getting at is that the special committee on housing, your panel, should consider an ordinance to go by for the housing associations. If that ordinance is established, it should be worked out between the local people and the Housing Corporation before it comes into effect because once you do not have any guidance or ordinance to work by as an association or a board of directors, it is pretty hard to function or operate. So I am recommending that the housing association in communities should have an ordinance to operate by so this problem can be eliminated.

The Housing Corporation's policies should be given to the housing associations so they will know what kind of policies they have. I was secretary manager for the housing association and they did not even have a copy of the policies when I was working for the housing association.

MR. BALLANTYNE: To go one step further. Before the Housing Corporation decides a policy they should consult the associations, have input into the policies, would you agree that would be better?

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: If the Housing Corporation is going to be establishing an ordinance for the housing associations it is obvious that the people in the communities would be willing to have input in the ordinance itself. Maybe even 75 per cent of the ordinance should have input from the communities.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you that is very clear. I just wanted it on the record.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions.

MRS. KOONOO IPIRQ: (Translation) We met earlier this afternoon and I have a few more comments to make. We have a shortage of houses in Arctic Bay. When an individual approaches the housing association we have no control whatsoever to satisfy the applicant. There are times when people apply for a smaller house but we never have any control to satisfy that person. Right now there are six houses being built and we are very happy with that. We know that these houses are going to be filled up, that is going to satisfy us for awhile and give us breathing room. The association knows that there about 20 applicants for those six houses. Right now people are living in old houses. People are living in houses where there is no running water and poor heating. We are satisfied to move to any houses, new or old.

The part about the rehabs. The rehabs are being built too high and the kids hurt themselves. We as a housing association have no power. We in Arctic Bay are not the only association doing that. There was a person who went to Frobisher Bay to confront the Housing Corporation regarding housing matters. The Housing Corporation is not consulting the housing associations enough in the communities. That is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Panipak Ettuk.

MR. PANIPAK ETTUK: (Translation) I am a resident of Frobisher Bay. I fully disagree with the rehabs that were built this fall. The water heating system up here is no good for the North. I do not want to see any of these boiler heating systems built in the North. They can break very fast once you run out of fuel. I feel that the buildings should all have furnaces as the ones that are being rehabed.

The Housing Corporation does not realize the high cost of living up here. The rent gets very high. They should have a representative living here, with no subsidies, just to find out if they would like to live in the houses we do. The costs are very high here in the North. As the kabloona said earlier, I have a woman who is handicapped and he was correct about the building situation.

MR. BALLANTYNE: In other communities we visited, we were told that handicapped people had many problems getting in and out of houses and living in houses. Sometimes the stove is difficult to reach, the light switches are too high, the steps are too high, and many other problems. Are you experiencing problems like that?

MR. PANIPAK ETTUK: (Translation) Yes I have experienced that, as my wife hurt herself on the steps. She has only one working arm. If the steps were not so high, it would have been fine. The electrical switches are too high for her and it is not convenient. The house is also too small for her, when she is trying to clean up it is quite difficult.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Aimo Mukpakuk.

MR. AIMO MUKPAKUK: I would like to ask, if I was to buy a canoe or skidoo or any hunting equipment, would they be able to lower my rent because I have to buy these expensive items?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am not 100 per cent sure, but we will check it out and get back to you. I think when they are figuring out what your revenue is, you can deduct equipment used for hunting, fishing and trapping. I do not know if it includes expensive things like skidoos or boats. We can find out and let you know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Kango.

MR. JOSHUA KANGO: (Translation) I am a resident of Arctic Bay. I have a presentation. It is the same concern you have already heard already. It is about the changes of the building, I am not too concerned about the quality of the work, but I know about the paddings under the houses, once the house starts to shift the house starts to break down. From my experience in Nanisivik, when they are going to build new houses they use this special truck to level the padding and press it down hard. I think that is why the houses are in good shape. Even these new rehabs are trying to crack due to the fact the paddings have started to shift. That is my main concern.

Another concern I have is the lack of space in the buildings. They have no porches. The porches are cold. It would be ideal to have at least one of the porches heated. The one that is used a lot in the winter -- when the spring arrives everything in the porch starts to get wet.

Another concern is the contractors, the subject has already been brought up by the contractors. When they arrive they do not hire locally. That is one of the main problems and we are not happy about that. They should hire local long-time people. Right now there is only one helper, a Kabloona, white person, who is the helper and the contractors definitely do not want Inuit as employees and that creates problems. If that is going to be the situation, the Inuit who are long-time residents want to apply for contracts. If a contract is up for bid, we should be given a chance to bid on the contract because we only find out when it is too late. Those are the main concerns I would like to bring up to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Maybe we could have 15 minutes for a break in order to meet the panel here or the special committee and you can talk to them and probably after this 15 minute break we can all ask again if they will have any concerns.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) The pop that was brought here, this is to thank the people for coming over and for telling us your concerns. If there is anybody else who wants to make some comments the floor is open. Daniel.

MR. DANIEL AOLA: (Translation) My name is Daniel Aula. I have mentioned to you regarding the agreement between the Housing Corporation and the housing association. The power that the housing association has was given to us by the Housing Corporation and the board of directors cannot make any changes. I feel that the agreement should be dissolved which was agreed upon by the Housing Corporation and the housing association because I feel that the housing association could do the things they want a lot better. This is all I have to say right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Before I ask a question I would like to thank Daniel Aula for taking the committee on a tour today of your community and we looked at rehab houses and new houses and Daniel answered many of our questions. It was very helpful to us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I have a question. How many houses have an overload of people.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Right now perhaps around five or a little over five. I have never really examined as to how many are overcrowded but there are too many overcrowded families in one house. I think there are five families that are overcrowded in one house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) And also if there were enough houses here in the community and I know that some old houses. How many houses would be condemned or written off if there were enough houses available.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Before the old houses were rehabbed there would be around 20 houses that would not be suitable for tenancy, or a little over 20.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any more questions from the committee? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I wonder, Daniel, if you could give us a copy of the agreement between the association and the Housing Corporation?

MR. DANIE AOLA: Yes, no problem.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any more questions?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I have a few comments. The new Weber houses are leaking and the roof will be fixed and the floor but I feel that the whole house should be rehabbed again. I think it is very important that this is heard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions? Mike.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Could you maybe explain a little more about that. Because there is a program as you know to replace the roof. Could you tell us the other problems with the Weber homes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Daniel.

MR. DANIEL AOLA: (Translation) The main problem that we see is not only the roof, also we have been told the floor will be fixed again and this is causing a lot of problems in these houses because they are not properly done. Since there was a lot of leaking it has affected the structure of the house and they are just going to fix the roofing. I do not think that is enough if they are just going to fix the roofing and the floor. There are other things to be done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions from the special committee? Thank you. Any further questions? I am sorry I have forgotten your name already.

MS KAUTAQ JOSEPHIE: (Translation) My name is Kautaq Josephie from Arctic Bay. I wanted to mention something about the houses that are dripping. For the past two years our bedroom was not dripping but when we fell asleep I woke up when it was dripping right on my face. The blankets were wet. It is terrible when you have to wake up to things like that and one of the things I did not like about the dripping is the living room area. These houses are always dripping, every year around May, I am not the only one that has a wet house there are a lot of people in our community who experience the same thing. I am very, very thankful that even as women, we are able to speak and I am very happy that this committee has a woman Member. So this is the best meeting that we have because we can talk more easily and because the men and women can speak at the same level. This is very good that we both have the opportunity to speak. Men and women have different chores in the house. For this reason I wanted to speak up again. I will probably say something else if something else comes up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions or any comments from the special committee? Thank you. Are there any further comments?

MS KOONOO MUCPALOO: (Translation) Before I say my name we do not need a house because our community is full of mud. My name is Koonoo Mukpaloo. I am very worried about our future for the Inuit people who are just growing up or for the young people or even the children. Our families are being broken up as a family because there is so much conflict between the older people and the young. I am really worried about what is going to happen in the future. If the people are starting to be evicted -- this has just started happening today and it will continue in the future. If the people are starting to be evicted I foresee the future this way. In wintertime in our land, if someone was evicted, a family who has a lot of children, because the father cannot keep up with the rent because of the high cost of living. Even if you are working you do not have a very high salary. I know that something terrible is going to happen in the future. If I get evicted from a house my children are going to have to go with me. Where will I go? I would not have any place to go and my life and my children's lives would be completely destroyed. Because I would not have any place to go. I guess I would try to make a shelter out of snow.

Families are a little bit different now than in the past. When the families were closer together we were able to depend on each other. The families are now a little bit more apart now because of the money. I think you understand what I am saying so I will stop here. Why I am afraid of the future is because last year when I went to a meeting I stated -- I feel that there should be just housing association. Above the treeline it is very dangerous in winter to be evicted. This is one of the main reasons I am scared about what is going to happen in the future. I think there should be another body besides the Housing Corporation that would deal with the danger of the winter above the treeline because it is going to affect a lot of people in the future. The people that will be evicted will be very afraid to go on living. I feel that there should be another body that would deal with the people that cannot pay their rent and who are not working so that we can try to work with these people and find employment. This is the only way in which we can try to solve this problem because we will die if we do not do something about it. There should be some alternative because the Housing Corporation is -- let us not just depend on the Housing Corporation, let there be some other body that would help so that we will not worry too much about what is going to happen in the future. I hope you understand what I am saying. Try to find out from the people...I want to get support on this so I will not worry too much. I feel that this audience should be involved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I think your concern is a very valid concern and I can assure you that the committee will take it very seriously.

MS KOONOO MUKPALOO: (Translation) Thank you very much. Let us try to find out from these people to see if they support what I said.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I think it would make it easier for us to understand if everyone who supports what was said please raise your hand. Yes, we know you are being supported.



MS KOONOO MUCPALOO: (Translation) Thank you. I have been thinking about this for a long time and I have another concern I would like to mention. There is few two bedroom houses in our community, we have more three bedroom houses and we have a bit of a problem because there is one person that is living in a three bedroom house and I feel that the two bedroom houses should be occupied by the younger people because the rents are a little bit lower. I feel it is a lot better in the community. That is all that I have to say, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Before you state your name I think we definitely have to finish off the pop, please feel free to go get some pop and we have to finish otherwise somebody is going to sell them.

---Laughter

Ms Alainga.

MS NATSIQ ALAINGA: (Translation) Natsiq Alainga is my name. I would like to make a supplementary comments after that lady who was talking. She mentioned about home-ownership. We are also experiencing the home-ownership program and it seems like it is going to be used more and I think the individuals who are applying for home-ownership should be considered because an individual who works for the housing association cannot be approved and should apply to the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation is located in Frobisher Bay and they just refer to Yellowknife and then Yellowknife approves the applicant finally. I was wondering if we could do something about headquarters being in the capital of the NWT. I think this problem could be solved if the Housing Corporation in Frobisher Bay is given some authority to approve for the applicants. That is what I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any comments or questions from the special committee? Are there any more presentations to be made? Ms Pauloosie.

MS TINA PAULOOSIE: (Translation) My name is Tina Pauloosie. I have some remarks to say. Our house, a Weber home is probably coming from Housing Corporation and I have some reservations on that. I know that the materials are sometimes broken even the windows are broken on the sealift. I think there should be some extras on materials and when we approached the housing association for extra the housing association just states that there is no extras. I think that the materials that are coming into the community -- there should be an inventory on the materials coming on the sealift. Am I clear?

I know that there are some extras but when the extras are broken there is no other extras we end up with a broken part for the future. The materials should have extras so that we can use them in the future. We feel that we have to live in a good place so the rent would also be involved. I would also like to talk about the running water that is in some of the houses. Some of the parts are broken, so the water just starts to flow around the house. I would like to ask the construction workers to secure the plumbing because there are a lot of houses in Arctic Bay that encounter those kinds of problems. I know this is not the only community but other communities also experience those kind of problems. When we request for a house it is a long time before we get a new one and I feel that is not fair. Am I understandable? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: When some of these materials get broke on the sealift, does that happen quite often?

MS TINA PAULOOSIE: (Translation) Yes. The materials are broken. I'm not the only one that knows that, you can refer that to the housing association. Some of the windows are broken sometimes or the shelves or closet doors are always broken too.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions or comments from the special committee Members? Are there any more presentations to be made? Ms Atagutiaq.

MS QAPIK ATAGUTIAQ: (Translation) My name is Qapik Atagutiaq. The last rehabs we have that were being done seems to be dangerous to me when I see them with a lot of kids and sometimes right from the steps it goes straight down and when there are too many kids going out at the same time. I have thought that there should be a longer platform. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk) (Translation) Thank you. When an individual is rushing out the door, it is dangerous?

MS QAPIK ATAGUTIAQ: (Translation) The platform is too high, it goes right to the step. I think this should be corrected so it would not be too dangerous then. We as ladies sometimes think about this because we have kids and we know what is dangerous or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any comments or questions from the special committee? Are there anymore presentations to be made? Mr. Mukpaluk.

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Aimo Mukpaluk from Arctic Bay. I would like to say to you again about the leaking -- right now the house we are presently living at has a very low ceiling and the attic has no insulation whatsoever. There is plastic on the ceiling and when the plastic is punctured during spring the leaking starts. I know that this should be corrected. The way they are built now is very poor so if they are going to be building other Weber homes I think they should correct that problem before they are building the next ones. That's all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would like to ask you regarding the leaking matters. In the near future I would like to know if the incidents have been noted about correcting the problem.

MR. AIMO MUKPALUK: (Translation) Yes, I have heard about correcting the problem on the next houses because we know that they are very poorly done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any comments or questions from the Special Committee Members? Mr. Pearce.

MR. FRANK PEARCE: Mr. Chairman, as the administrator here and as the group of people who are providing the municipal services, I think it is important here that the Housing Corporation touch base with the -- in our case, the hamlet administration staff and the council, or in other communities, those who are delivering the municipal services. The reason being that quite often the outlets where we fill the water tanks or we pump out sewer are inadequate. I've just learned today for instance, the fact that the housing association has adapters for water delivery that we didn't know about. And it is something that we need to consider because it is something that we could probably adapt on our own vehicles. That's all.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions? Ms Levi.

MS LEAH LEVI: (Translation) I have too many names. I am Leah Levi. About the recent rehabs -- the concerns have already been brought up and these are concerning the high steps from the ground. Those are definitely not suitable because not all of the people are normal, some of them are handicapped, some of them have more than one child and cannot really handle them by themselves. Another concern too is that the rehabs have very small porches. For example, a family of four, husband, wife and two children, there is a lack of space. Up here it's around 40 below and it gets really cold up here. If they were a little warmer the cold air wouldn't come in so fast, if the porch was bigger.

Another reason why I don't like the porch is because the Inuit women usually have work to do and some of the materials that they work with cannot stay in a warm place all the time and they do not have an area to store them to keep them cool. So I would like to point this out clearly. Even when some people try and come inside the door, their house gets cold, just when the door is open. That is the main concerns that I have. That's all I have, I don't have no further presentation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the Members of the special committee. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just to say that in our tour today we saw the high steps and I agree that they are a problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further presentations or comments. Ms. Alooooloo.

MS ELISAPEE ALOOLOO: (Translation) I probably won't be able to reach the mike. My name is Elisapee Alooooloo resident of Arctic Bay. Concerning housing, I am living in a recently rehabed house. I am glad because it is suitable for me. We used to live in a much smaller building and I had respiratory problems at that time. I would really like to thank the people that I was able to move to this house and it is easier for me in this spacious place. I do not want anybody to wreck the house inside so I am going to look after it. I put in my rent from the cheque that I receive and all my children come to stay with me, to comfort me. The house I am staying in doesn't drip that much -- only twice this year. The paddings are perfect and I would just like to thank the Housing Corporation very much that they allow me to stay in this beautiful spacious house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Natsiq Alainga.

MS NATSIQ ALAINGA: (Translation) Yes, I am going to touch up on the rehabs. Now all the rehabs -- the space has decreased since the original size. The large families all the time have had shortage of space in the house, probably when they are going to rehab these three bedrooms, they should combine two of these three bedrooms together in order be suitable for larger families. I think that would be better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I have a further question. The comment that you made is perfect because if they are going to decrease the space inside the three bedroom -- we have heard that they rehab these houses from the inside and the space gets smaller. Would it be better if they rehabed these from the outside instead of the inside and not change the bedrooms. Can you state to me whether that would be better?

MS NATSIQ ALAINGA: (Translation) Yes, probably. I don't know if I am correct but if they are going to renovate from the outside, probably by 12 inches, I do not think the space inside would be decreased because some of the houses when there is too many people inside them get overcrowded and if they are going to renovate these houses they should also add additional rooms. Is they are not going to build new houses. I think that would be better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions or comments from the special committee on Housing?

MS NATSIQ ALAINGA: And also I would like to make another presentation. It is concerning contractors, the people who come here to renovate the buildings. I feel that the people who apply for contracts should get guidelines from the government to find out whether they would have problems inside the community where they will be working. For example, if a contract is available for bidding, the government should tell the contractor about these guidelines they should be following.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. That comment that you brought up has been dealt with in all of the communities that we went to and it seems to me that it is quite clear that this presentation that you gave is going to be in our recommendations after our interim report has been released.

MS NATSIQ ALAINGA: (Translation) Also, I probably wasn't clear when I said earlier -- I just would like to state once again because we don't get an answer from regional headquarters from Frobisher for about a month if we request something and in turn the Frobisher Bay regional headquarters has to ask the headquarters in Yellowknife and then Frobisher Bay has to wait at least two years before they can answer the district office in Frobisher Bay and I would like more information be available to people on home-ownership programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Would you like to make a comment on that?

A SPEAKER (Male): The concern will be dealt with in the future when we are discussing it with the Housing Corporation and we will not forget about your concern. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further comments to be made? Kik.

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: (Translation) My name is too long so I will abbreviate it -- it is Kik Shappa. As everybody knows that your chairman, Ludy Pudluk knows very well that the houses above the treeline is our only shelter and the request that we want, it would seem as though it would be a lot better if they followed what we requested, but if the Housing Corporation does not want what we request -- it is very difficult to deal with the Housing Corporation in order to deal with our corporation. It seems very clear too that if the Housing Corporation doesn't want to listen to your report or your recommendations, they will not do that either so I know for sure that some of the recommendations that you will be pushing for you will not get it from the Housing Corporation. For that reason I would like you to consider, the Special Committee on Housing, that the Housing Corporation -- you should deal with another body not only the Housing Corporation, maybe there's some other bodies you should be working with in order to push the Housing Corporation harder.

Right now, the only Housing Corporation that we have heard is that we know they already have their plans and the recommendations that you make -- they will not listen to you, they will only pick up some minor points of your recommendations and make changes to those recommendations. Maybe if there is another body that is created, then the body will be able to listen to our requests more and the Housing Corporation will probably accept more of our requests that we have from the community level. All aspects, whether it be funding or design, they will probably listen to us more. If you do not understand what I said, you can ask me some questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I just want to mention what you said is true. After we do our tour we will try to investigate on how to deal with the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation is divided into two, one is the federal government and one from the Territories. They help with funding and the Housing Corporation gets their funding from federal government and they have to answer to the federal government. If they do not agree with our recommendations, we have another route to go to. We could go directly to the federal government if the NWT Housing Corporation does not want to accept the recommendations that we make.

The concerns that you have been mentioning, I am not worried as to if they'll be approved. I do not think they are going to push me around after hearing the concerns of the people. I am going to do my best. I am not going to worry about them at all. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Just to add to what Ludy said. The Housing Corporation is responsible to a Minister of the territorial government, Gordon Wray. And Gordon Wray is responsible to the Legislative Assembly, which we are a part of. Also, the Legislative Assembly passes the budget of the Housing Corporation, and the Legislative Assembly through its Minister can decide to implement recommendations made by this committee. So we have the power to do it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any more comments?

MR. AKIKULUK SHAPPA: I just want to clarify that I was talking mainly about getting competition for the Housing Corporation to consider getting another housing agency rather than just having one agency. At the moment there is no competition. Maybe if the committee considered another competitor it might be worth-while for the people who live in the community because it is very important to us about the houses up here because of the kind of climate we have. There is no trees that is why I thought that this should be considered to get more competition instead of just having to rely on one, which is the Housing Corporation at the present time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: That's an idea that we will look at and there is an organization that built some houses. What we will have to find out is what is possible, so that we can still get federal government funding. We will definitely explore your idea. I think it is a good one!

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any more comments? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to comment -- it is not a question. Just listening to the people talking this evening, it just seems that sometimes it takes longer for us to train the southerners than it is for them to train us. You'd think that after that many years of building homes in the Northwest Territories they should consider many things. Somebody mentioned that the nails and the screws are popping up when the wood is twisted because they are not treated properly for cold weather -- such as putting pads in the wintertime so that when the spring comes it melts and it is shifted and all that. I saw a house in Grise Fiord, the ones that they are building now, the pointed ones, I noticed right away that there was not enough closets and shelves except for kitchen

cupboards. I am hoping that this committee will make some changes for the better now that we have a new Minister and he is from the Keewatin. So I am sure he understands all what we are saying, understands the problem we are faced with because he lives in this environment as well and he is a new Minister from Keewatin and hopefully with the new Members from the Legislative Assembly, as well as the new Minister, that there will be some changes made for the better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Is there anybody else? There is one more hand up, perhaps this could be the last one.

A SPEAKER (Female): The part about leaking is a problem. I think they should put the pipes higher above the floor because we heard that the leaking problem was going to be corrected by next time around. I think that they should include the heater pumps for correction.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you trying to say that the water pumps should be lifted up higher so they are not on the floor?

A SPEAKER (Female): Exactly, cause right now the floor has a dent from the weight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We will be recording that if that could be included when they correcting the leaking parts. Mr. Pearce.

MR. FRANK PEARCE: I just got a question to ask. Will the committee be speaking with the Housing Corporation itself, also will they make an effort to talk with contractors and also will they be talking with consultants and architects? Because I think it is important that they get a good cross section in order to make a really good report. It is a very important topic that Ludy has initiated here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: We definitely have a program to talk with the Housing Corporation and I think it is a good idea for us to talk to the contractors and some of the architects. We will discuss it as a committee and look into that possibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I am going to ask once more if there are any more presentations. So then I would like to thank the people for coming here and bringing your views to us and I would like you to be aware that all your concerns are recorded. In the near future they will be transcribed, not just on record but transcripts for the Housing Corporation in Yellowknife and the Housing Corporation in Frobisher Bay and the communities will be handed out the transcripts from the hearings. Also, we have already visited four communities and up to now I am more appreciated from the public that we set up a special committee on housing. Before the hearings are over, I will not give our mandate because all the views that are brought forward are very important. Some of the views that were brought forward have not even been heard by the Housing Corporation, the problem has stayed in the housing association. So I would like to thank the people for assisting us and we will bear you in mind. Before I adjourn the meeting, I would like one of the largest Member's to say something.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I am one of the largest Members, but Ludy is the best looking Member!

---Laughter

Before we leave, I would like to give you just a little history of this committee. The idea for this committee was made by your MLA, Ludy Pudluk, and Ludy has been an MLA for many years. He knows a lot of the problems with housing and he's been frustrated and he's worked very hard on your behalf but he came to us and suggested this committee. So you should thank your MLA for this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. We will be adjourning very soon and I have a lot of compliments to make. Thanks. Merci. Mahsi cho. Tonka. The meeting is now adjourned.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF CLYDE RIVER, JUNE 8, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We will be holding a public meeting at 3:30 p.m. so we will have to try to finish the meeting before then. As you, the housing association board, wanted to meet with us, we can start the meeting right away. If you have some comments or presentations to make, please keep in mind that whatever you say will be recorded, so you can say any of your concerns.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We heard that you were not going to come here, and then we were told that you wanted to meet with us and that you wanted to hold a public meeting about the housing association. Somebody called to say they wanted to meet with the housing association board first, so we were just waiting for your arrival. We wanted to meet with you and we have not made a written presentation. When we hold the public meeting there will be some people making comments, I am sure. We are sorry that a lot of people are out hunting and there are not that many people here. Everybody has gone out spring hunting. I do not know if there is going to be anybody coming in to the public meeting but we will find out. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. We do not generally talk to the people we meet, we just mostly ask questions. I do not know who said we wanted to meet with the housing association board first, but in some communities we have met with two housing association members. In two communities this is what they wanted to do. I was just waiting because I do not know who wanted to meet with the housing association first. If you have any concerns you want to tell us, please feel free.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) First of all, I would like to say it is the wrong time for you to come, while the people are not in town. I think this causes a little bit of problem because a lot of people that are away are renting houses -- you would have got more response at another time, but right now there are some people that are needing houses and the population is increasing, so therefore the housing problem is very big right now. We cannot get houses too easily, so we do not have that much to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: In the other communities that we visited one of the problems that the people told us, is that before the Housing Corporation designs a new house they do not talk to the people to ask their ideas about what a house should be like. Is that true here also?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I have gone to several meetings when Baffin Housing Federation are meeting. We have been mentioning this in the meeting and we have been saying that before the houses are shipped to the community we would like to see the designs because we have never been asked what kind of house we like, so this creates problems. Exactly what you said that we agree with.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Does the Housing Corporation run the rent scale, or do you have any power within your community to change the rent here?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The Housing Corporation on costs, they just tell us how much we have to pay and they just tell us about the increase and that is one of the problems that we see. We will think about this. We should deal with this rent matter here in the community first before the Housing Corporation sets their scale so in other words the Housing Corporation sets up the rental scale for us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) As it is the case, do you have any power concerning rent? Are you able to change the rent without following the manual or the policy of the Housing Corporation?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We have no by-laws here or policies but we are just trying to set up our policy on housing. The rules or the policies that we have to follow have been set when they first started building the houses and finally now we are just trying to change those policies so they will be more adaptable to us.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) My next question is, how do you feel about the user-fee system, they are using this user-pay system in Resolute and Frobisher Bay, starting last year. Are you expecting this change or would you have a problem with this user-pay system for electricity?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Yes, that is one main problem or concern that we have, especially here in Clyde River because there are hardly any jobs available and unemployment is very high, and we cannot make any money on fur bearing animals. So that is one of our main concerns, especially if there would be more jobs available and we would not be too concerned about this user-pay system and that is what I think.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I really do not have any concern to say. We held a public meeting here and people were against this user-pay system. We have asked Paulooosie Paniloo in this next meeting to try and change this user-pay system so that we will not be having to pay, and maybe you can give us an answer about this, whether things have changed concerning the user pay system.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Paniloo): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions from committee members?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The problem when they had this public meeting they wanted to cancel the user-pay system. So when we had the meeting in Yellowknife there was a subject from the Baffin South -- once before the houses are renovated or before they are suitable the user-pay system should not be in effect. So I was in support of his concern, and we have never actually given a definite answer whether they can withhold this user-pay system until the houses are renovated or whether they can cancel it all. That is all I can say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Paniloo): (Translation) Any further comments?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) My next question is concerning user-pay system for electricity. Once it is put into effect, we have heard that the user-pay system is in effect -- with the money that people pay we can use this money within the community. I want to know if that is true or not?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Paniloo): (Translation) Please note that we are not working for the Housing Corporation. We came here to listen to your concerns. You can ask questions but the questions we will just be directing to the Housing Corporation, so in that case we will not be able to answer your questions. We are not working for the Housing Corporation nor are we a representative of the Housing Corporation. Mrs. Lawrence?

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to say that we are sorry that people are out of town and unable to come to our meeting. We do not have that much time so it is a bad time to come in, but due to our time limit we had to come in at this time. We are here to listen to your views and concerns and we will be making recommendations to the Housing Corporation, as elected Members. We are all elected Members and we will be making recommendations, all of us, and I am sure we are going to try to make some changes for the better of the community. I would just like to ask if people sitting in front of us are staying in the public housing? Okay, if they are then, you will just have to bring your views and concerns to us, but we are sorry that we are unable to give you immediate answers. We can only make recommendations for the better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Also I would like to ask the question we have been asking all the communities when we meet with the housing association because I don't know what time the ship comes in that is carrying materials for houses. What do you think would be better, to start building houses as soon as the materials arrive in the community or do you think you have to wait until springtime. Which way do you think will be best?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) My concern is about the shortage of housing because there is some people who want to move into these houses. So I feel that they should wait for me to build these buildings when they arrive on ship because they can move into a tent for awhile while they are making them or renovating them. I am referring especially to the rehabs because the people have to move out and it is very difficult, especially during cold times. That is our main concern especially about rehabs, they should build them in springtime when there is tents available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Pedersen. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: In the other places we have gone to we have heard a lot of comments on the rehabs -- some places they are too high, others said they are too small when they rehab them from the inside, some people said they like them. Have you got any comments on the rehab program? How do you like it?

MR. JOANASIE APAK: (Translation) That concern I have heard here in this community is exactly as you said, when they build it from the inside they lose a lot of space and this is a main concern, and they feel if they make renovations from the outside and put the insulation on the exterior they would have more room because the panelling would be very thin. The insulation should be on the outside and the panelling on the inside, especially for those people who have large families. The space is too small for large families when they move back in again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I also want to state something regarding the rehab houses. The rehab houses causes a lot of problems and it seems the Housing Corporation is the only one that has power as to how the houses are going to be rehabed and the Inuit have no say at all. This causes problems with us. A lot of time they rehab the houses that don't necessarily need it right away. I think the older houses should be rehabed first. So in this area the Housing Corporation should meet with the housing association to ask what houses should be renovated first. We have seen this problem because we have no power at all as to which houses should be rehabed. After we are told by the Housing Corporation that they are going to renovate certain houses we have tried to tell them that there is other houses that need renovating first and we can't get anywhere with the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any more comments? John.

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: You were saying that your biggest concern about housing is the shortage of housing. I wonder if you could give us an idea of how many people need housing -- just to let us know how bad the shortage is here.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The people that need housing fill out applications to the housing association and we deal with them at the meeting. There is more than one because there is more than one family in one house here in Clyde and people are just getting married and they would like to have their own houses too, so it creates a lot of problem even within the families. We are renting out the old, old houses which are called match boxes, they were the very first houses to be built and they shouldn't be used, but because there is a shortage of housing we have to rent them out and families with children even live in some of those. So in this area we are having a lot of problems because there is more than one family in a house, therefore we really have to get more houses in Clyde River. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) It is exactly correct what he said. Right now we are thinking about planning houses that are really needed now and reverting match boxes -- the Housing Corporation has stated that they shouldn't be used but we have to because we are lacking a lot houses here in the settlements. There are two families that can't get housing at all, one has worked in Frobisher and before they left their house had to be rented out to somebody else and when they came back he had no place to stay



They can't get any government housing, so they are just boarding with a family right now because they can't get a house. They have been asking for a house for quite a while now but we can't give them one. We have been told there won't be any houses brought here this summer. This is a very bad problem with this situation in Clyde. Large families have no space in some of these houses. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: When we build new houses we have heard that the houses we build -- for quite some time we have building mostly three bedroom houses, we have heard that the three bedroom houses are too small, but we have also heard that we should be building smaller houses, maybe one bedroom houses for new families, for single people. When we do build houses, should we build one type, like a three bedroom house or should we build one bedroom, two bedroom, three bedroom, different sizes of houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We only have three bedroom houses here but we felt that perhaps there should be some houses with four bedrooms or five bedrooms. And for what you just said regarding couples getting a house, I think two bedrooms should be sufficient. We are not thinking about one bedroom houses too much, we would like more bedrooms because there is a lot of people that have to sleep all over the living room so it would be better to have more bedrooms. Perhaps there should be some kind of apartment buildings that we see in different communities. But we don't have anything like that here in Clyde River. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further comments? Red.

MR. PEDERSEN: In the other places we have gone, women have talked to us an awful lot -- we have not heard anything here yet. We have had comments that the houses are not designed, obviously housewives had no input into the design because there is not enough storage in the bedroom, there is not enough cupboards in the kitchen and they just don't seem to be designed for the wives and the children to play as well. Would there perhaps be any comments from here or are the ladies in Clyde River quite happy with the houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) When the public is coming here and there will probably be somebody in the audience who is a woman who will be able to give their concerns to you. The two members of the housing association who are women do not have too much to say right now.

It is past three o'clock now and we are expecting people to be arriving here now and definitely there won't be that many people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We don't care, even if there is few people. We apologize for coming here when a lot of people are out camping but this was our only chance to come here. We will have a 15 minute break while we wait for the other people.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

CLYDE RIVER, June 8, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Before we start, the Minister for Clyde River will have the Lord's Prayer. Please stand.

---Prayer

Before we start, I would like to ask my colleagues -- it's bad news and good news to some of the people, while we are holding the hearing we are not allowed to smoke. If you want a cigarette you have to go outside to the porch.

I am Ludy Pudluk from Resolute Bay and I am a Member of the Legislative Assembly from the High Arctic. The Special Committee on Housing consists of six elected MLAs and there are four alternate MLAs appointed by the Legislative Assembly in February 1984 to investigate the concerns people in the communities have about housing. The committee will also review the operations of NWT Housing Corporation.

First of all, I would like to introduce the committee Members. The last one is Mike Ballantyne and he is from Yellowknife North, next to me is Joe Arlooktoo from South Baffin and on my right is John T'Selele from the Western Arctic, Eliza Lawrence from Western Arctic and Red Pedersen from the Kitikmeot Region. We are all elected MLAs.

I would like to thank the community council for their invitation to have the special committee visit and hold a public hearing. The committee will hold public hearings in 10 Baffin communities this month. Over the next six months about 40 communities will be visited. The NWT Housing Corporation will also be reviewed by the committee. An interim report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this fall. The final report will contain recommendations based on the community hearings. It is the goal of the committee that these recommendations lead to improvements in housing at the community level.

The community hearings is the first step in finding out what people would like to see happen with housing, of course, it will not be possible to make any promises about what the committee will be able to do. The committee has to consider the housing situation throughout the NWT and look at where the money could come from for any change it might suggest. The committee has a responsibility to make sure that the recommendations it makes are realistic and positive. Recommendations that would solve at least some of the major problems we are now dealing with therefore we welcome your suggestions for improvement and encourage you to share your ideas with us. For the benefit of the MLAs from the West -- I will ask a Member from the West later to give us a brief summary of how housing has been delivered to their communities or the Housing Corporation districts over there work.

If you would like to speak, please step up to the microphone at the table and please state your name. The interpreters will translate your remarks and everything will be recorded so the transcripts of the hearing can be produced. The Housing Corporation in Yellowknife and in Frobisher Bay will also receive some of the transcripts and the transcripts will be available to the housing association if you would like to see the copy and what we have done in other communities.

Also we are not the Housing Corporation. We don't work for the Housing Corporation however we are working for you as elected Members of the Legislative Assembly and we would like to hear your views and your problems so that we can make recommendations to the Housing Corporation. Also the headsets used for translation are fragile so please do not allow the kids play with them and after we adjourn please leave the headsets on your chair.

I also forgot to mention the support staff. First of all, I would like to introduce the interpreters, we have three of them and everybody knows Joanassie Akumalik, and also there is Mally Curley from Frobisher Bay and Jaypote Akeegoak from Grise Fiord. The rest of the support staff is Penny Aumond, she is our co-ordinator and will be looking after all our minutes of the hearings. We have two press people who just got together with us today and perhaps you will hear some news later on from these people of what is being happening. I am going to ask one of the Western MLAs to speak on what they have to say. Eliza Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to thank the community for inviting us and helping us to make the recommendations easier. We are here to listen to your views and concerns. Before the housing came into the Territories, many of us had homes, including my parents. They had a nice log house that my grandfather built and I was born and raised in that house and when the housing came into the Territories, they encouraged my parents to move into this low rental for \$2 a month. Over a period of time they were told they would own this house and when my mother died in 1975 they tried to kick my Dad out and then he died in 1977. In the meantime they destroyed our nice log house that was built by my grandfather. It was a very nice kept house and it had everything in there, even a phone. Today when I go home to Fort Resolution, I don't have a house to go home to. My other relatives that had homes, their homes were destroyed and they were moved into low rental houses. Today they are unable to keep up their rents and now they have to pay power on top of it all. We have similar problems that you people are experiencing here although we encourage home-ownership in my area because we have logs that we can build homes with. Just the same, some people are unable to own their houses so they have to look up to the housing association for a house to live in.

Because of all the concerns that I heard in the last few years in my constituency -- when Ludy made that motion, I seconded the motion to form a special committee because we are all elected Members that hopefully any recommendations that we make will be followed up and will make some changes for the better.

I notice in my travelling into Grise Fiord I saw some houses that were just being built and as a housewife I raised three girls -- I noticed right away there was lack of space for storage, shelves and even for sewing. I know I sew a lot and you need that space when you sew, when you sew you have to spread your materials and I noticed that there was no room for space such as storage and sewing, putting your cloths away. In some communities this concerned a lot of women. Some even suggested that they be involved in the designing of the homes so that they can have enough storage room. When you raise children you need a lot of room. I would just like to encourage everyone, men and women to say their views in order for us to make good recommendations to the people who are in the Housing Corporation. Now that we have a new Minister for the Housing Corporation, who is from the Keewatin. Hopefully, because he is from the North, in the same area as you are that he will understand all the problems that will be brought to his attention and make some changes. I would just like to say thank you again. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further comments from the special committee. That is all presentation we have so we would like to hear from the audience. Any person who wishes to speak, we will recognize them as soon as they raise their hands and please step up to the table. Could someone please come up to the table please about their concerns. If there is no one we will stop immediately. Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo.

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am elected Member for Baffin Central and I knew that you were arriving so I notified the people and told them to voice their concerns. I am going to talk on behalf of the community of Clyde River because they used to come to me regarding their concerns on housing. The people who are camping gave me some messages to give to you. So the main concerns are from the people who are out hunting.

Number one is about the houses that have tanks in their porches. These tanks freeze up during the winter and the tenant has to look after it and work on it when they freeze. Another main concern is about the high rental cost. The people say that when they are working they never get a raise in their salary, but their rent keeps going up higher and higher all the time and they cannot afford this. The people say that the Housing Corporation does not recognize this need for more money for the tenants.

Another concern is regarding the lack of space in the houses because some of their children have to sleep on the couches or the floor and at the same time the cost of rent is rising. Also the houses drip all the time when spring comes. This dripping destroys a lot of household furniture in our community. We have been telling the housing association board of these problems, but because the Housing Corporation is so slow in their operations and do not ask the people what they want, the housing association sometimes cannot do anything. The housing association board knows what houses are in bad shape and which ones need to be renovated. So therefore they wanted more power to do these things. I think that the Housing Corporation should work together with the housing association so they can do what they want.

Also there is no one here in Clyde River who owns their own home. It is too hard right now to own your own house because the Inuit here do not get enough help from the government. When we ask the Housing Corporation for information as to how much it would cost to get home-ownership, even when the houses are really old the price is quite high so a lot of people disagree with this program. It is very hard to own your own home in the North because the cost of living is so high, such as gasoline.

Also another concern of the people out camping is regarding these match boxes that they are living in. They say that these match boxes are a health hazard, they get really hot and when a storm comes they get really cold, just like a freezer. I wonder if these old match boxes could be rehabed? Also when the water is coming out through the pipes from outside it is a health hazard and the Housing Corporation is not doing anything about it. When the Housing Corporation renovates their own houses they start collecting a lot of money and they do not maintain the houses.

The problem we are facing right now is when they first built the houses they put the water tank right in the porch. I am not sure what year they were made. These houses were built in the early '70's. The tanks are put right in the porch and the people that live in the houses really have to look after the water tank because if you don't they will just freeze up, you have to watch them all the time.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Now that I have that clear I want to move onto another subject regarding home-ownership. You mentioned the cost, can you tell me how much it is to get home-ownership?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) If the houses are in fair condition the cost would be around \$9000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions from the special committee? Thank you. Mr. Aipellie Qillaa.

MR. APELLIE QILAA: (Translation) I am probably going to say part of what Mr. Paniloo said. I also have a house like that which has a water tank in the porch. They start freezing up even when the water truck is putting some water in. So this causes problems us when the water tank is located in the porch. Also, because the houses are so old we have to keep the furnace on all the time. I used to be a furnace mechanic and I know that having the water tank in the porch is a very bad location. If they put the water tank somewhere else we probably would not have so many problems. Thank you.

MS KILLAQ ENUARAQ: Our water tank is not right in the porch but in the storage room. Our tank does not generally freeze up, but the bathtubs are not completed. I wanted to mention this because I cannot fix it because I do not have a husband. That is all I wanted to say, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Thank you. Somebody else please? Please state your name.

MR. JOANASIE HAINNU: (Translation) Regarding the matter of the water tank being located in the porch, I am going to make it clearer. The houses that were built in 1969 had very small water tanks. There is no insulation in the porch or in the storage areas and this causes a lot of problems in the different communities, especially in the North. I do not like it myself. Also what people were saying was that we were told it would not cost very much to buy a house. But right now we are paying a lot of money for rent with all these problems. We would like to see some renovations done and then they can increase the rent after the renovations have been done.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: In one of the communities that we visited I remember hearing one person talk about the Housing Corporation designing a new type of house where there would not be running water. His feeling was that running water the way it is designed here in the North seems to be more of a problem and it adds to the cost of the rent and is not practical. My question is, is it your feeling that there should be some changes made in the plumbing, in the way the water goes through the building? Is it your feeling that it may not be necessary to have all of the plumbing that they put into these rental units?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) When a house is renovated and after the renovations sometimes there are no extras when there is a broken part. So sometimes we have difficulties when we are maintaining the houses with those kinds of problems during the winter. Thank you.

I would like to say again that we were approached that we have to consult with the Housing Corporation. We are trying that as a practise. Sometimes even employees are not able to do some major projects. When there are major projects to be done, we cannot do them on our own. We have to comply with the Housing Corporation first. I would like this to be changed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you asking the Housing Corporation why they cannot come here, or when they are invited to do a major project? The question you directed will be referred to the Housing Corporation. I would like you to be aware of that and also perhaps we can send a copy to your housing association office. Do you have any more remarks or questions? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARIKOTON: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make it more clear of what invitations you asked for when there are certain projects. Are you referring to, lets say lights or any dangerous materials? We would also like to here of what kind of invitation you gave them and for what project?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) The new houses or the Weber homes are having problems like dripping and there has to be major repairs done every year. But I will not go into that in detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Has the Housing Corporation consulted with you regarding repairing the Weber homes.

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Yes, we have been consulted already, but we have not seen any people working on it. But I can say that they are going to defer the date. The Weber homes were done and they worked on them during the fall and when the spring comes the ceiling begins to leak. That is all I have to say, thank you.

MR. JOANASIE APAK: I am chairman for the housing association. The matter on repairs is going to be started sometimes in 1984 and we were told that there are 10 houses that need to be repaired regarding the leaking problem. Every time the Housing Corporation comes in we have to tell them the same story again. From the last visit they said they were going to start working on them but then they ran into difficulties with funding. We always encounter that problem, but we are pretty sure now that there is a forecast of budgets already set aside for this project. Mr. Paniloo also said that when we met with you earlier that the user-pay system will be implemented and the Housing Corporation should be consulted about the repairs that need to be made through you and if we can defer that date of the user-pay system. So if it is possible then I would like the Housing Corporation to be consulted regarding the user-pay system. Sometimes we heard that the Housing Corporation was going to be consulted with on that matter. So I would like you to repeat to them about the user-pay system please after the renovations are completed.

Also I would like to tell the people that the housing association met with the housing special committee. And that everyone is welcome to go up to the table to bring up their views. We had heard that the special committee was coming here on Friday, but not on the right hour. So now it seems that we are in a hurry because of the bad weather in Broughton Island. I would like to urge all the people to bring up their views so that we will work efficiently as a housing association board of directors. Also the special committee has a mandate to do that, to hear any kind of views from the people. Thank you for the opportunity to let me speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you referring to the lights and the user-pay system?

MR. JOANASIE APAK: Yes, the user-pay system, when the kilowatt hour is over the limit we have heard that we will be paying extra. So I would like to see that the user-pay system be in effect only after the houses have been renovated and completely repaired because it seems that some of the houses are in very bad shape and it does not seem fair to us that we pay for some of these houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there were 10 rehabs done this year and my questions is, who will be doing the rehabs? Will it be local people or a contractor from the South?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) This is run by the Housing Corporation, so definitely there will probably be someone coming in to fix these houses. But most of the time it is local people who are hired to do the renovations. So I cannot tell you exactly who will be coming because the Housing Corporation is the only one who handles these renovations.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Would you like to see more local people involved in the construction?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Yes, because here in our community there are very few jobs available to the public. Perhaps if a contractor comes they could hire some local people. If there is electrical problems I know we would have to have someone with experience. There was a training program here on construction of a building, I do not know how they are going to run it this year. But I would definitely like to see more local input in regard to renovations, because when the Inuit finish their training they can be definitely more employment available and we would be much more happy if the local people were to be hired. I know that they hire some local people but I feel it would be ideal if they hired more.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any more questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: In the other communities that we have visited, people told us that there is no more training programs. Will there be a training program this year in Clyde River?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) We have never been consulted whether or not we will be having the training program. But we know that when they are building new houses, when we went down to the meeting, all the communities made recommendations to the Housing Corporation that there should be more training programs in the North on building houses, but we have never been consulted whether or not we will be having the training program. But we know that when they are building new houses, when we went down to the meeting, all the communities made recommendations to the Housing Corporation that there should be more training programs in the North on building houses, but we have never heard since then whether or not this program will continue.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: In every other community that we visited, people told us that they would like to see the housing association have power. Do you feel you would like to see your association have more power and if you do what things would you like to be able to do?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Yes, we would definitely like to get more power here in the community so that we will be able to run the housing system here by ourselves, such as hiring the people who will be building. If we get more power within our housing association we would like to see that we have power to tell the people what to do when they come here to do construction or renovations. This is our main goal, to have power to select or to identify the houses that need to be renovated and the Housing Corporation should be listening to us more instead of them telling us what to do. Then that way the existence of a committee would be more effective if we had more power. Did I answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further questions from the special committee on housing? I have a questions also. The government employees have staff houses and if a couple are staying in the staff houses and both of them are working there is only one person who is paying for the rent. However if somebody is staying in the rental housing and they have a large family and all of them have jobs, there gross income would be added and then calculated. From that they would calculate the price of rent for that particular house. How do you feel about this system. Do you feel that there should be only one person's gross salary based upon the rental system or should all of the gross salaries be added and then calculated?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Yes. I understand that and I have thought about this system that the people who are working and staying in one building have problems in paying for their rent because there is only one persons name listed on the tenants list. I feel it would be better if they based the rent only on the one householders gross salary for rent.

I have thought about this for some time now and I feel that the Housing Corporations make it very hard for us when we want some changes and sometimes we do not know who could help us in order to break the barrier between the Housing Corporation and ourselves. I would like to say now that we appreciate the special committee for coming here and listening to our concerns, especially on the ones that we have requested. Do you know if there will be future hearings on housing again?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Through my understanding after these hearings we will be making a report with recommendations. After that I do not think there will be another hearing. Maybe our next generations, if they have seen more problems within the communities regarding housing maybe there will be another hearing, but in the near future I cannot foresee another hearing. The government staff has very ideal staff housing, there houses are fully furnished but their paying system regarding rent is different. The people that are staying in public houses, they are not fully furnished and for that reason it is not suitable for the tenant to be paying high rent for unfurnished buildings. Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: The question I want to ask is about the housing federation. Do you think that more money should be given to the housing federation and that the housing federation should have more power? For example, this year in the Northwest Territories there will be 250 new houses built and right now the Housing Corporation decides which communities get houses. Do you think it would be better if the housing federation decided which communities in the Baffin should get new houses and not the Housing Corporation?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) The federation consults with each other from different communities and this year I attended the federation meeting. It seemed that the Housing Corporation did not recognize us as a body. For that reason we were told one time when the federation started to exist and I was attending the meeting the existence of that housing federation were told that the federation would be deciding which communities would be getting the houses -- we were told that when we were first starting up that federation. Up to now, nothing has happened and the Housing Corporation is still handling the distribution of the houses into the communities so I would like to see that the housing federation get some power in order to distribute the houses within the communities. I don't know if I answered your question correctly or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. There was a comment to be made by Eliza.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just want to make a comment on the rent scale that was established by the corporation. They established the rent scale according to the federal rent scale -- my understanding is that the corporation was to provide housing to the needs of the people and when they imposed that rent scale at the community level, it is really hard for the people to keep up their rent scale because they have to go according to the government rent scale and all government houses to my understanding, have running water, some of them are fully furnished. This was brought to our attention that it is causing a lot of problems to the point where some people are behind in their rent and given a court notice for them to appear in court. I wonder if this is the problem they have here in this community.

PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Were you talking about the rent? A lot of people don't want to hear about people having to go to court because they are behind in rent. I think maybe Pauloosie Paniloo could give us more details.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I am just making a comment in my constituency. Some people have been given court notices because they are behind in their rent. I just wanted to mention that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ballantyne): Ludy has gone outside for a minute and I will take over the chair temporarily. I wonder if Pauloosie would like to come up and perhaps respond to Eliza's question.

PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) Regarding your question Eliza. This creates a lot of problems for this reason. For those far behind in rent -- the people could be brought to court, this is true and this is causes problems with us and people are not looking forward to it because if they owe a lot money, they are going to have to pay a fine on top of the rent they owe. A lot of people in the North disagree with this system that is being imposed. It is hard to stop this court system but I think we could raise this up with your help -- I mean if you get help from the people I am sure you could raise this up because we completely disagree with this court system, having to go to court if you owe some rent.

The second question regarding the rehab houses and the new houses that are being built. You are asking if there is a contractor that comes in from the south and Joanasie answered right but I just want to make a supplementary. When there is work to be done there is people that want to work or get the contract but they are only taken by the Kabloonas because the tenders are not even given to the communities even though there are qualified people in the community to do the construction. They only show the tenders to the Kabloonas because they put out these tenders in Frobisher. I also know that the Legislative Assembly when the Housing Corporation speaks up they only talk about the good parts that they have done but when the work goes to Frobisher when you are run by Frobisher headquarters it changes completely and the Inuit in the communities are completely forgotten, their qualifications are completely forgotten by the headquarters. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ballantyne): Thank you, Pauloosie. It is a complaint we have heard in the other communities also. Would anybody else like to say something?

PETER KOONILUSIE: (Translation) I don't like the Housing Corporation. I just got out of the housing association last fall. I was the Chairman of the Housing Association for a year. The housing federation was mentioned, I just want to elaborate on that a bit. When we have gone to the housing federation conference -- the housing federation seems like a committee of the Housing Corporation and when the housing federation wants to do a major project there has never been a representative from Housing Corporation attending the Housing Federation Conferences. Even if we made some resolutions regarding the Housing Corporation because they are so hard to deal with. We know this much.



Also, I want to state when the houses are being rehabed the contractors are never from this community and the people who have the contract hires more Kabloonak than Inuit. They hire locally but perhaps just two or three that they hire locally when there is not very much employment here in Clyde River. I think there should be more Inuit with the contractor helping out. I wanted to mention this so you guys can support us in this regard about Housing Corporation.

I would also like to hear from you on the recommendations that you will be making. These are mainly the things that I wanted to bring up, the houses that we live in right now. We have been asking to have them renovated but it is very hard to get anything done through Housing Corporation because they are so slow in some requests that we make or they don't respond too quickly. When we are the tenants and paying rent we disagree with a lot of these things. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee? Thank you. Is there anybody else who wants to voice their concern?

MR. MOSES NATANINE: (Translation) I am going to repeat what I have been saying at the housing federation so that you can hear it yourselves. It is regarding the houses that we rent -- the very first houses that were built which has four bedrooms, they are very old now and they are not in very good condition so we do not like those old houses at all. Myself I don't like them. I don't work, I don't have employment and I am always lacking money. Because living is high and we have to keep on paying for our food and things I just wanted to mention this to you.

The old houses are not built well, there is a lot of dripping, the edges of the houses have holes -- they don't even have insulation. When the sun is out and it is hot the insulation starts melting and it drips into the house and sometimes there is lots of water in the roof. So sometimes we have to remove the snow from the roof before spring so we won't have dripping. I am one of the people that has the pipe system that pours outside and when these pipes freeze I just took off the pipe myself. It is very hard to deal with this when they freeze in winter because these pipes are so low they freeze up with the snow on the ground and stay like that all winter. I tried to bring this up at the housing federation meetings.

I would like to know if the Housing Corporation can set up those tanks which will be beside the house. Sometimes we have difficulty with repairs so I would just like you to be aware of that problem we are encountering here in Clyde River. We are not satisfied with our house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee members? Are there anymore remarks to be made?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) I would like to say again about the rent. Right now the rent scales are based on the individual's income which is 25 per cent and we have a lot of problems on that matter because I know I have to travel sometimes and when they see my gross pay they deduct 25 per cent off of it. However, I have asked if that rent scale could be reduced and here in the Baffin we were told that we are paying the same percentage of rent but that is not true. We have been consulted even before we moved into our houses and we were encouraged to move into a house but then we had our own houses before and we were told that the rent scale would be very low. So, I wanted to know why we are on the same rent scale as the federal government. I know that you will not answer that question but I wanted you to be aware of that. Sometimes I think that in the Territories that the rent scale should be changed. However, the Dene and Inuit are the priority on the employment list and I wanted to know why that matter is like that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the special committee Members? Are there anymore presentations to be made?

MR. IVO KOOTOOK: (Translation) I have concerns, perhaps it was mentioned earlier, but being an employee and when the employers have difficulty with their funds it is very hard to keep up with the rent scales. Is that clear? We are not satisfied as employees why that rent scale is set and we have approached the housing association on that matter and asked if they could reduce the rent scale and that is why we are having problems with that in our community. Our employer has some difficulty in their fundings but then they just have to deduct some money off our checks and the rent scale has never been changed. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Questions from the special committee Members. Thank you. Before we leave, there was a person from Broughton Island and we are not going to Broughton Island. I was wondering if he could bring up his views on behalf of Broughton Island.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I can say on behalf of Broughton Island...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Do you own the community?

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Yes.

---Laughter

In Broughton Island we have great concerns about the matter of rent scales. I said earlier that the individuals gross pay is deducted 25 per cent. When the rent scale goes very high the people who are working do not receive a lot of money and they are not satisfied with that. Also, the other matter is that the housing association in Broughton Island does not receive adequate funding. The board of directors in Broughton Island works very hard on policy making and regulations and they try to deal with the tenants when they are behind in their rent. They try to operate as efficiently as they should be but they cannot because of lack of funding. Also the board of directors have a mandate such as hunting but some of the board of directors go out hunting and they feel they should receive some money as honorarium because they have to pay for their rent.

And thirdly, the residents of Broughton Island are also concerned about the houses that are being built and the houses that are being built don't have enough windows and they have to pay a lot of money for the house and they use a lot of electricity to keep the houses bright. They have asked me to tell you that they are not satisfied with the rent because they have to pay for the electricity.

Also on the rehabs in Broughton Island, the rehabs are not built very good. When they are finished they increase the rent and space is very small in the rehabs so the Broughton Island people are not satisfied with that. Sometimes people are given a house which is not adequate with a large family so these are some of the concerns from Broughton Island. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee Members? Are there anymore presentations to be made?

MR. ELIJAH PALITUQ: (Translation) I am concerned about house paddings. I would like to see better paddings because right now the paddings are poor and when spring comes there are streams along the houses and then building starts to fall apart. I am also concerned about when the houses start getting too old, they are not too good. I would like to ask the housing association to check the houses if there are repairs needed.

There is also a problem I would like to mention on the health hazards which was mentioned before and this is on the water that is just flowing out. Because when you have to pay rent it is not very suitable to pay rent when the house is too drafty. I am staying in an older houses and there is a lot of repairs to be done on it and I am not too happy about paying rent on a house that is not well built. That is all I have to present to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the special committee? John.

MR. FISELEIE: You are saying that in some houses the waste water is allowed to just go out onto the ground? I just wanted to get that clear, because I thought that all the Housing Corporation houses were suppose to have tanks put under the buildings to get all this waste water into them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I remember when we were in one community we used to put the waste just outside and it never was a health hazard.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) The question was that this old water and the sewage since they have running water now -- not all of the houses are like that yet some of them are just, the sewage is just going outside, is that the case?

Any more questions from the special committee Members? Is there anymore speakers from the audience? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: It has been brought to our attention about the southerners coming into the North -- contractors and that putting pads in in the wintertime so that when spring comes it melted and shifted the housing. It surprises me because after building houses for a few years, you'd think they'd have enough sense to listen to the people or have the local people involved because they are the ones staying in the houses. Even some of the nails and screws that are put in the wood they pop right up because the wood is not treated for cold weather.

I would just like to thank all of you for coming and bringing your views and concerns so that we can make a good recommendation to the Legislative Assembly when we sit again in November. I am really going to work very hard on it to make sure that there is someone to follow up on these recommendations and we'll be making so much noise that they will just have to listen to us and make some changes. Mashi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Anybody else who would like to speak before I speak? (Translation) I also would like to thank everybody for coming. We are sorry that we came here when spring is here and everybody wants to go out on the land. The concerns that you stated we will certainly work hard to try to implement these suggestions and remember my colleagues want to help very much and we are very happy to have these meetings. We are very happy that we were able to bring a special committee on housing which was brought up this last session.

I was first elected in 1975, since then I have been trying to deal with the Housing Corporation because I know they are very hard to deal with. Sometimes it is impossible to get through to them so I thought perhaps if we went to each community and listened to the concerns of the people and collect these concerns. They have been recorded and we will make a report and when we make our recommendations I think they will listen to us more now in the future. It's impossible for anything to be right away but we will certainly work very hard on it. So, I would like to thank all of you for coming over to the meeting. We will probably see each other again sometime because I will be meeting here and there. I don't think we'll be back here regarding the housing situation. Thank you.

---ADJOURNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Verbatim Transcripts  
of Community Hearings

PANGNIRTUNG

June 11, 1984

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Ludy Pudluk,  
MLA, High Arctic

Mr. Arnold McCallum,  
MLA, Slave River

Regular Members: Mr. Joe Arlooktoo,  
MLA, Baffin South

Mrs. Eliza Lawrence,  
MLA, Tu Nedhe

Mr. Red Pedersen,  
MLA, Kitikmeot West

Mr. John T'Seleie,  
MLA, Sahtu

Alternate Members: Mr. Michael Anqottitaurua,  
MLA, Kitikmeot East

Mr. Michael Ballantyne,  
MLA, Yellowknife North

Mr. Elijah Erklco,  
MLA, Foxe Basin

Mr. Samuel Gargan,  
MLA, Deh Cho

OFFICERS

Committee Co-ordinator: Ms Penny Aumond

Clerk Assistant (Procedures): Mr. Albert Canadien

Secretary to the Committee: Ms Melody Casserly

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF PANGNIRTUNG, JUNE 11, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Before we start I will introduce our colleagues. My name is Ludy Pudluk, representative for High Arctic; second to me is Arnold McCallum from Slave River from Fort Smith Region, he is an elected MLA and is my co-chairman. Next person is Joe Arlooktoo, elected Member for Baffin South; next person to me on my right is Eliza Lawrence, Tu Nedhe from the West. The next person is Red Pedersen, elected Member for Kitikmeot West; John T'Seleie from Sahtu.

I understand that you have invited us in order to meet with us first. Please understand that you cannot ask us questions because we do not work for the Housing Corporation, we as the special committee on housing are just trying to help the people in the North. The questions that you ask will be written down and then in turn will ask the Housing Corporation.

We have alternate Members, there is Mike Ballantyne from Yellowknife; Michael Angottitauruq from Gjoa Haven; and the elected Member, Pauloosie Paniloo. You may now speak up on any concerns that you may have.

MR. JOANASIE MANIPIK: (Translation) Our hamlet council consists of myself, the mayor; Tom Evic, vice-mayor; and five counsellors. There is a member who is absent because he is out on the land right now. We do not have a very large presentation at this time because we are not quite prepared. We knew that you were having public meetings so we thought we would just let the people speak instead of preparing presentations.

We have informed the people in Pangirtung that you were coming and told them that they cannot ask you questions and expect answers. We just informed them to give their concerns regarding the Housing Corporation.

First of all my main concern before I let the others speak is regarding housing. We have many problems regarding housing, especially on very high rental scales. The houses that we live in are not furnished, and to my understanding they should be. We feel that the necessary housing items, such as fridges and stoves should be included in the housing because we have seen that the government staff houses are fully furnished when a tenant moves in. We feel that the Housing Corporation rentals housing should be the same, as far as having furnished housing.

Another concern we have is regarding the elders here in the community. I don't think that their rent should be so high because these elders are only getting pensions from the government. These are my main concerns that I have so I will now let my fellow colleagues give their concerns and presentations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the Members of the special committee. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Maniapik you said that there are fridges and stoves. Are these in the units now?

MR. JOANASIE MANIPIK: (Translation) Yes, those are the only two items that are in the units at the present time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I would like to ask a question concerning the elders. The way that I understand it, is that the elders should pay the minimum rent scale and here in this community do they have very high rental rates?

MR. JOANASIE MANIAPIK: (Translation) Yes. I do not know if they are all paying the same but I know that there are some of them who are paying a little less than \$100. I know that if there are elders who are living with family members, the family members have to pay, which is an increase in rent in that particular household.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I would like to get further clarification. These elders usually have a spouse and they also get a pension. Are you referring to these two elders or only one person without a spouse?

MR. JOANASIE MANIAPIK: (Translation) Yes, I am referring to both householder and the spouse. When the Housing Corporation hold meetings we try to refer this subject on high rental costs for elders. I feel that this situation has to be changed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further presentations or questions? Mr. Tommy Evic.

MR. TOMMY EVIC: (Translation) My concern is that the Housing Corporation does not allow the housing association enough fundings. The housing association has a hard time trying to get fundings to try and do repairs in the community. If there was more funding available we would have more employment in the community. My concern is that not enough funding is be made available to the housing association from the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions? Are there any more concerns?

MR. JOANASIE MANIAPIK: (Translation) Another concern that I would like to bring up is regarding the small buildings. We have brought this up to the Housing Corporation and we were told that these small buildings were not going to be used, but we are still living in these match boxes. We were told from the Housing Corporation that these buildings were going to be written off. We have been expecting this to happen, but what has been done is that these match boxes have been only renovated.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee? Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: When you say that the match boxes have been only renovated and fixed up, are they reinsulating them -- rehabing them like the bigger ones, or exactly what are they doing to them?

MR. JOANASIE MANIAPIK: (Translation) I do not know if they are being reinsulated, but I have seen that these have been repaired. I do not know if they have had major repairs done, such as reinsulating.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Any further comments?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I would like to make a supplementary comment on the housing matter. I am wondering if you, the Special Committee on Housing will be going to the houses to check them out just like the fire marshall, to see if they are safe to live in. We had reported some of our houses to the fire marshall, but nothing was done about it. We have contacted the Housing Corporation in regard to the unsafe houses.

Another concern is that there is not enough maintenance men at the housing association and some of the repairs that are being done are going along very slowly. Also in addition I have some concern on the old houses. There might be some health hazards involved in the old houses. I realize that the tenant is responsible for that but perhaps in the future in the NWT the fire marshall's or any other organizations should inspect the houses and make recommendations of their own in building better houses. If this was done I think that alot of houses would be written off.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would just like for you to be made aware that since we are visiting each community, I would appreciate if you would bring up your concerns and then we the special committee will make recommendations.

A SPEAKER (Male): The match box houses were supposed to be written off long time ago. In Pangnirtung people do not want them anymore. Did you say you want new houses and want to write off the match box houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): Yes, because these match box houses are too small for one individual. They would be just a place to sleep, you cannot live in them, they are too small. It is worse now because more and more families are using into a match box house. Perhaps there could be bigger houses made. These match boxes seem to be just one big room, perhaps more two bedroom houses could be built. That would be my personal view.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions? Mr. Maniapik.

MR. JOANSIE MANIAPIK: I would like to make a brief comment regarding the housing association here in Pangnirtung. The Housing Corporation are not giving the housing association much power. I feel that each association in the community should have more power. I would prefer to see this special committee talk to the Housing Corporation about this. People are not satisfied with this fact. I would like to welcome you here and I am glad to see you made it all the way up here. I believe this committee will help us. We do have a lot of comments to make. The major concerns will be brought up at the public hearing. The main point I wanted to say is that the housing associations have no power at all and when the Housing Corporation comes to town they don't always have meetings with the association. That should be one of the recommendations that the Housing Corporation does not hold public meetings. Also the Housing Corporation is very slow in handing out funds to fix the pads. Thank you.

MR. McCALLUM: When you say the housing association should have more power -- what kinds of things should they be able to do? What kind of power are you talking about?

MR. JOANSIE MANIAPIK: I am very concerned that is community does not have control over their houses. The Housing Corporation is the main body controlling the communities. It seems that the association here should make policies or by-laws of their own, at the community level. Sometimes we hear that the Housing Corporation does not approve anything -- I know that the association is capable of making by-laws at the community level. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: We have heard this same concern in every community, that the housing associations do not have enough power. I hope you will all be at the public meeting because we will bring it up again there. There is a desire to have input into the design of houses, both on the outside and inside. There has also been a desire in the other communities for better opportunity for local contractors to get the work on the new houses and the rehabs, or if they don't get it, the contractors should be hiring local people to do the work. These have been concerns in the other communities and I will raise it again at the public meeting to get some view on it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more remarks.

A SPEAKER (Male): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In this community the housing association is getting more houses, right now the housing association is getting behind in their maintenance work. Right now the housing association has 200 houses as their responsibility. I think the special committee should consult the Housing Association and we would like to know the funding available to us. Because of so few maintenance people, it is very hard to keep up with the maintenance. I know we will be receiving more houses and there will be funding problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee Members. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: You said the housing association looks after just over 200 houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): I think there are a little over 200. We have been consulted by letter that there are 150 houses and the Housing Corporation sent this letter. Perhaps we can consult with the housing associations in each community to see if our manual is correct or not.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions regarding this matter. Do you have any more presentations. Mr. Maniapik.



MR. MANIAPIK: (Translation) I do not want you to get confused. I think there are around 150 that belongs to the housing association and together with government staff housing, I think it is around 200. I think that the number you have in your manual is probably correct.

A SPEAKER (Male): Are they maintained by the housing association?

MR. MANIAPIK: (Translation): No, I think there are 150 not 200. If you put all the houses together in Pangnirtung I think there are around 200.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation): Any more comments? Mr. Maniapik.

MR. MANIAPIK: The older people do not have good housing, convenient houses. The old houses do not have running water. The older people have to carry water. It is very important that the older people have running water. I hope to have them fixed in two months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any comments.

A SPEAKER (Male): I just want to add to what Joanasié said. The handicapped and older people are starting to get running water. We are lacking houses in Pangnirtung and we have to put older people in single houses and they cannot help themselves too much. They should be in houses where they do not have to do much work. If the match boxes were written off, it would be a lot better so the other houses would be rehabbed. They should be thrown away.

MR. PEDERSEN: I saw some what looks like winter tents on the beach. Have they been used this winter?

A SPEAKER (Male): Are you talking about the huts?

MR. PEDERSEN: They look like tents with canvas on the outside. They look like huts, I do not know what is inside them.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) They are occupied all year around because these people do not have any place to go. They look like tents but they are huts. Perhaps we could go and see one when we have finished this meeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any further questions from the special committee? Mr. Maniapik.

MR. MANIAPIK: (Translation) I would like very much for you to come and see the huts because there are seven families that occupy them, but two families are out hunting right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further comments.

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) When I talk about my constituency needing houses, I want you to believe me. I do not want to talk too much because I will talk at the public meeting tonight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any comments? Joanasié.

MR. MANIAPIK: I just want to say thank you. We will meet with you again tonight. We thank you very much for having this brief meeting. We will come tonight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to say thank you for inviting us. It is very important that we hear your views and concerns so we can make good recommendations in the fall when we are sitting. So I would encourage everyone to come out tonight and state your concerns. Mashi cho.

A SPEAKER (Male): I just want to thank the Special Committee on Housing. There is a lot of people anxious to meet with you and I am sure they will speak up about houses. I cannot say too much about Housing Corporation houses because I live in government staff houses, so I do not want to go into that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further comments. If you want to speak again tonight, feel free to do so. It is good when people start speaking up. The meeting is adjourned.

---ADJOURNMENT

CONTINUATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATION MEETING IN PANGNIRTUNG

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) My name is Ludy Pudluk. I am the chairman and I am from Resolute Bay. Arnold McCallum is the associate chairman from the Fort Smith Region and just behind me is Joe Arlooktoo representing Baffin South, beside him is John T'Selele from Western Arctic. On my right is Eliza Lawrence from the West also, and the last one is Red Pedersen from Kitikmeot West. Red will know a lot of older people here in Pangnirtung, I don't know if he knows the younger ones.

There is a mistake in the brochure with Joe Arlooktoo and Eliza Lawrence names are switched around. Joe use to be a nurse...

---Laughter

I would like to thank you for meeting with us first before we have the public meeting. We have been meeting with the housing association in some settlements and its going very well. I want you to know that we are not from the Housing Corporation nor do we represent the Housing Corporation. If you have some questions we will not be able to answer them directly but if you have some questions you want to direct to the Housing Corporation we could give it to them. And also, when you are speaking be aware that you are being taped. We will definitely keep the concerns that you have.

Anybody else from the special committee that would like to make an opening remark?  
Besides that we are not working for the Housing Corporation and we are not working for the government, we are just representatives of the people. Just like Pauloosie is your representative so we are working just for you guys not for government so the concerns that you have will help us in making solid recommendations. So anybody could start the meeting now.

MR. MANASA EVIC: (Translation) I will introduce you to the Members. Johnny Mike, my vice-chairman, Joshua Akulu'uk, one of the board members, Amoosie Arnaq who is also a member, Seeme Angmarlik is also a member. Myself, I am the chairman of the housing association, Manasa Evic Our secretary manager, Ooleepa Kilabuk and a member, Mosesie Nowdlak and Mosesee Qappik. These are the members of the housing association from Pangnirtung.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) You can say your concerns to us now. When you finish talking you will be asked some questions if there is any questions arising and would you talk a little bit slower so that the interpreters can keep up.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The first thing that we want to talk about is the funding. We have to go through the Housing Corporation in Frobisher, the headquarters for the Housing Corporation, we are not too satisfied with them right now because they give us funding that is not enough. The funding they give to the communities is never enough. They don't seem to think about the high cost of living that arises each year and in our community there is always things to be done but we never have any money to work with. I think one of the members could elaborate on that a bit more.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) This has been causing a lot of problems with us -- the funding part, because money is the only one that is running the community and there is going to be more jobs provided but when there is no funding it is hard and the houses that belong to the Housing Corporation we cannot maintain and fix up properly because of lack of funding. The Housing Corporation just gave the communities funding and they don't seem to think about the problems that are in the communities and for these reasons the funding is not adequate. We are going to need your help to try to -- they shouldn't just give the communities money, they should make the funding for a whole year and give the members more power to do some work because the Housing Corporation and the government officials should try to keep in mind the problems in the community when they are allocating funds. In this area, this is causing problems in the community because we cannot do any work we want and that's pretty well what I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee? John.

MR. T'SEIFIF: We've heard the same type of concerns from other communities we have visited and especially around funding for housing associations and other kinds of problems we heard about were problems about the slowness of the district office in Frobisher to take care of housing. One of the things we are going to have to look at is how this whole situation can be improved and my question is whether or not you think the decisions have to be made in Yellowknife or should the Housing Corporation be divided into an east and a west and whether or not that is going to improve the relationship with the district office?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Can anybody answer that?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I am just starting to learn about these problems and it's obvious the Housing Corporation is not doing too well and we have to know where the problem is coming from. They are running too many things in the community even when they know there is a lack of funding. I think there could be improvements in that area, in the area mentioned about dividing the Housing Corporation to east and west. I think there should be one in this area because it would improve the funding that is allocated to the communities. We are never given any information as to how much the Housing Corporation gets in Frobisher that will be going to the communities in the Baffin area. They have never told us their operating costs for a whole year, whether they have a surplus at the end of the year or if they lack funds. We have never heard anything about this. I think we should have better communication between the communities and the Housing Corporation regional headquarters because this would improve the relationship between the two bodies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: Thank you. My question is first of all regarding funding. Do they involve the community when they are doing the budget or is it just the Housing Corporation that decides? Are you consulted on this budgeting?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: In June we are asked to prepare for next years budget. We are asked to send this in, but when they give us the money they do not even ask us any questions, they just hand us the money without any consultations regarding the budget. They budget we prepare is always decreased.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: How long have you been there?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: I started in 1981.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: As a housing association you do not receive enough funding for your operation. Has the Housing Corporation ever increased the budget. Do they give you limited funding? If you increase the rent on the houses will they increase the funding that they give you? Have they ever said that?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: I have never been informed about the costs on rents. We are receiving very limited funds. Because the people are paying little rent, we are receiving a limited budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Can you tell me what your grant is now from the corporation for a whole year?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: The operational grant for the housing association for employees is \$131,900. Also for office salaries and other materials is \$80,100. However the employees salaries were too small and we had to take some off from our sealift order and we had to lay off one of our employees because of lack of funding.

MR. McCALLUM: How much do you collect as rent.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: It is different every month. The largest we have received this year is \$18,000 for rent. The housing corporation has indicated that they have received \$14,000.

MR. McCALLUM: A year or per month?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: Monthly rate.

MR. McCALLUM: How many housing units do you have on your inventory?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: It was 150 at the beginning of the year but there were fires in two buildings so there are presently only 148.

MR. McCALLUM: I guess you average approximately \$170,000 to \$180,000 a year.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: Yes.

MR. McCALLUM: So that averages out to a little more than \$1000 per unit for rent for a year.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Metuk.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: The person who was asking the question. Do you know if we are given limited amounts of money because of the fact that the rental system is too low?

MR. McCALLUM: I am not too sure if that is the reason, but it is my understanding that the amount of money you have more maintenance is dependent upon the amount of rent that is taken in the community for a year and the grant you would receive from the Housing Corporation is supposed to look after the employees and administration. As you increase the amount of units you have obviously you need more people to do the maintenance but it should increase the amount of rent as well. There have been a number of housing starts in the community over the last few years, quite a few new ones, and I know it depends on how much money people make. From what I can understand, if you require more funding for maintenance work, it has to come from the total amount of the corporation money. That gets a little more difficult.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We do not want to answer questions. We are here to listen to your concerns. You are to use this committee as a channel and we will approach the Housing Corporation on your behalf. Any more questions?

A SPEAKER (Male): While we are on the budget item. In the Baffin Region we never see how much money has been used. We do not know how much the Housing Corporation uses. There is very limited consultation with the communities, such as in Sanikiluaq or Arctic Bay, we cannot compare which one uses more money. The communications are poor and we do not know where the money is going. Using Arctic Bay for an example, they have three or four employees even though there are fewer buildings. However in Pangnirtung there are a lot more buildings and there are only four employees, and next year there are going to be over 160 units. Each person will have 40 buildings as their responsibility. For that reason we want to know how we can increase our employees -- maintenance men. There is no money and we cannot hire the people we need. It seems that some communities have money that they do not need. It would be better if we had better communities. The Housing Corporation should let us know how much money they are giving out in the Baffin Region, and how much each community is given per year. This would be a very important communication. It would improve the system if we had better communication with the Housing Corporation. We do not know how the money is spent in the region.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: The budgets you are talking about, are they not discussed when you go to the Baffin Housing Federation meetings?

A SPEAKER (Male): I have never been to the meetings. Maybe our chairman can give you an answer on that.

A SPEAKER (Male): I have attended those meetings once and the budget was not dealt with. This was just last spring. The topic on how much we would be using was never raised. The Housing Corporation never even mentioned this budget thing down at their meeting, so I cannot fully mentioned their question. When we came back to our community, finally the budget forecast came in. That is all I can say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any more questions? Perhaps Mr. Paniloo can elaborate to us regarding the question.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) The question that came up, I know that in the Pangnirtung area we need the money and knowing that we need much power and sometimes we are not consulted regarding the budgets. We know we can request funds but we do not have power when we are trying to get approval for funds. The Housing Corporation gives approval to the budgets and therefore we do not get enough money so therefore we need more money. For example, right now the Housing Corporation is playing with the housing association and we just have to approve things otherwise we do nothing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: You have been telling us that the Housing Corporation does not consult with you enough, if we were to take an example such as the construction of new houses and every year the Housing Corporation decides which communities get new houses, how would you like to see that decision made about which communities get new houses. Do you have any ideas on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Who would like to answer that question?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Each community knows exactly what the Housing Corporation is doing with the money. The communities themselves would rather do their own budgets. That would satisfy everyone in the community. The housing association would then operate more smoothly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Yes Mr. Chairman, I just have one more question about how the housing association feels about how the Housing Corporation spends money, whether or not you think they spend the money wisely. What is your opinion?

A SPEAKER (Male): The board of directors have never seen any forecast of a budget. If we could see that we could see more clearly which communities should receive funds. Because some communities do not receive their funds. In my opinion, and since I am a new member of the housing association, I would feel that they are not spending their money wisely, which should go to the communities. They do not put the budget together very well. Recently we experienced a problem where the forecast set and they gave Pangnirtung a very small budget and the manager down in Frobisher Bay also cut off an employee and he fired their administrator. We are sure that the budget program down there is not adequate for us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more question from the special committee. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just want to be clear on what he is saying to us. Is he saying he cut staff to one here in Pangnirtung or in Frobisher Bay?

A SPEAKER (Male): It was at the headquarters in Frobisher Bay, the manager fired somebody. It was not in this town.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions. Proceed with your presentations. Mr. Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) The housing associations in the communities are different and the employees do not receive enough money. There is no vacation pay for the employees. Perhaps even in other communities it could be the same as Pangnirtung. Our employees do not receive any money for overtime due to lack of funding. That is also a problem in Pangnirtung.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) Not too long ago I talked to a Rankin person who works for the housing association and he or she told me that they get vacation pay to go to Montreal and also they have subsidy. All the employees receive overtime. In Pangnirtung we do not receive any of that but we have consulted our boss on that problem. He keeps saying we will receive enough pay "next year", that has gone on for a long, long time. Right now the hamlet pays vacation pay and they get all sorts of benefits and the housing association employees are not satisfied with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any more comments. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Just so I can relate it to government wages, do you know offhand what you pay your top maintenance person, for instance?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) The foreman of the housing association is receiving \$28,500.

MR. PEDERSEN: And the other maintenance people?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) One of the higher ones is making \$11.41 per hour.

MR. PEDERSEN: And that's it, there are no additional benefits? Not to embarrass you, but yourself as secretary manager, what is your salary?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: It is \$25,500.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I don't think I have any more comments to make on the budget. There should be a solution to this budget problem and we should consider it deeply. I know you will be making recommendations and there should be much consideration regarding the budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Anything else?

A SPEAKER (Male): I think the secretary managers in the communities should be included in preparing the budget. That would give us a lot more breathing room.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions from the special committee?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We have been telling the Housing Corporation our problems even though it is very hard to get things from them. We have been saying that the housing association employees salaries -- the Housing Corporation always knows the salaries, and sometimes there is not enough money for the employees. It is not adequately written down. Without any deductions, when the cost of living is so high, the money that goes for rent -- we will talk about that later.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I do not have a copy of the agenda. Are you on number one? Yes. Are there any more comments on that topic regarding budget. Perhaps we can move onto number two.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) A lot of people owe money for income tax at the end of the year and the money paid for rent is written down, so we have been having a problem with that. We never received any material when we are doing our income taxes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you trying to say that when they are doing the budget they do not consider the income tax paying system.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Yes, that is what I am trying to say. For the annual budget, a persons salary is already calculated for a whole year and this rental scale system is based on the whole years salary and at the end of the year it is usually different, when we have to pay income tax. They do not consider those other payments we have to make on top of the rent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk); Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: I would like to comment on that. This concern you are hearing now, this is how the housing association is operating now, they are under the Housing Corporation now and we are not satisfied because the salary for the employee -- they take out the 25 per cent when they forecast what that person will be making for one year. I would like the rental scale to be determined after the income tax and all the other necessary deductions are taken off.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I understand now. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: What you are saying, is what you are told you are going to receive as a salary and what you take home are not the same thing. You are talking about gross salary as opposed to the net. I said before that rent should be based on a net salary, that has been indicated to the government before. That is a point we should talk about, whether anything will be done about it -- I do not know. I do not think we can do anything about income tax, but certainly on rent because it is based on the gross salary.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I would like to get some clarification. The people of Panqirtung, is their rent calculated before their rent is taken off or after. Do they check through the coop how much people are making? I think in some communities in the Baffin Region, their rent is based after income tax is taken off and they use the system of checking through a persons salary through The Bay or the coop.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) We base it upon the calculation of the Housing Corporation whose policy states that before deductions are taken off, 25 per cent of the salary goes into rent. We have to use that policy and also the income tax forms have to go to Frobisher and the rent is based before deductions. Also allowances are taken off from the rent. We are using the 1982 system and the cost of living is not even considered.

MR. McCALLUM: What rental scale are you on? There are six different categories, which one are you in?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) At present we are using number five.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions? Any more concerns on the rent?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We have had a problem with this rental scale. The problem we come across is using it for temporary employees. There are a lot of unemployed people and after you start working for six months, it takes six months to get UIC, unemployment. So it causes problems with the people who are working because they have to pay 25 per cent of the salary that they receive. It takes so long to get UIC. I think the rent should be started after six months. There are a lot of people unemployed who could work. We have seen this situation last year. Some had to quit their jobs because of the rental systems. We want something to encourage employment for temporary workers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions or comments? Further presentations on number two?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a person is making \$400 a month and they have to deduct 25 per cent for rent, that is unfair for people, especially for a household and spouse. This scale should not be used. If you take 25 per cent from \$400, you will be taking home a small amount. This rental scale is a problem. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I also have a question. People staying in Housing Corporation buildings, some have very large families. If a man and his wife both start working, they will base the rent on the two salaries if they are in one building, however if a government employee is working, only one person is allowed to pay rent, even though there is more than one employee. How do you feel about this situation?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) If my children are working we have to include their salary when the rent is calculated. I totally disagree with this. If one of our children starts work, our rent increases. Our children cannot help to pay for the rent, it is their earnings and it is up to them to use their money on whatever they want.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further comment on that? Mr. Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to use a 1981 policy. At that time it cost five dollars for something that we now pay \$10 for. You should tell the Housing Corporation that the cost of living is increasing very rapidly here and they should consider that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Agenda item two, concerning rent scale system. Any more comments? Number three, new houses.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) This item was written about the new buildings. They are not furnished, they do not even have kitchen tables, dryers, beds. The reason we want to bring this subject up is that the people who are not married and who cannot get help from a family member, the costs of these are very high at the store, especially if there is only one person to purchase these necessary items. It is impossible to try and buy these for the new houses. Some of my colleagues can make supplementary comments on my remarks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Further discussion on new houses, item three. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I have some comments on the design of new houses, whether they are adequate in size, is there enough storage space. We have had a lot of comments in other communities, some comments about windows, storage space, bedroom sizes, etc. I would like some comments on whether the design is adequate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Can someone answer that question? Mr. Manasie Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) We are never involved in the design, only after the new houses are built can we see those designs. We would like to have input, because we know there are some mistakes.

MR. PEDERSEN: I would like to go a little further on it. In one or two of the other communities we had a lot of comments from women in the audience who felt that they should have some input in the design of houses. The kitchen for instance did not have enough cupboard space, there was not enough places for the kids of play, places or sew and places for storage. In other places in the Baffin Region, we seemed to get the impression that people would like to see the regional housing federation have some input in a design committee for new houses. It was suggested that perhaps someone from the Baffin Woman's Association -- that there should be input from various sources. Would that perhaps be a good idea?

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) I think it would be a lot better for us to include and consult the community residents. I would be satisfied if they could take part in the design decision.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions from the special committee. Any more remarks on item three? Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I would like to know who builds the new houses in Pangnirtung. Do you have a local contractor or is it a contractor from outside the community?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: People who do the contracts are from southern Canada. However when there was rehabs being done, an individual from here was awarded the contract. To my understanding that was the only time.

MR. PEDERSEN: When the contractors come from down South, we have heard in other communities that they do not hire enough local people. How is it in Pangnirtung?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Manasie Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Presently in Pangnirtung, we all know that there is an assistant program and right now we know there are no local people hired for those constructions. We would be satisfied if local people were hired for contracts. Also there was a training program held, but then that training program faded. I think it was the Housing Corporation that did not like the idea because it cost too much money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions on new houses. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: There has been talk about senior citizens or elders of the community, does the association feel there should be a senior citizens home. If they want to stay with their own people they can, but if they don't want to, and there is nobody there with them, do you think there should be a senior citizens home?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Manasie Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) A lot of consideration should be given to this. We know that a lot of older people are not satisfied. We should give it a lot of thought and they should feel comfortable. The older people are not satisfied with their houses, but I am not sure of how we could solve this problem. I would like to see a home for the older people. Perhaps some of my colleagues have something to say.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I would support a home for older people in this community. Some older people need help from the younger people and if they had a comfortable home, this would also bring employment, if there was a home for older people.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more comments regarding new houses. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In our visits to the communities there was another big concern and that was with constructing new homes. They supplies are shipped in the fall and they put the padding in in the wintertime, so when the spring comes the houses shift and there are a lot of leaks and things like that. I wonder if anyone has experienced that problem in this community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Manasie Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. There is not a very big problem with this right now because the houses are right down to the permafrost. When the materials come in in the fall, we would rather see the construction start in the spring.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Construction takes place here in the winter and we never see it in the summer. I have seen a problem with that. When the construction is in the late fall the constructors leave a lot of waste behind. The snow falls and the materials are laying around but since we went to piles, we do not have much of a problem now.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Right now we are using piles to the perma frost and we are happy with them. Construction in the winter used to be a problem when we used paddings, the houses were falling apart. I would be satisfied if the houses are built right away in the fall.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more comments on new houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I have a comment on older houses which were made in 1982. The insulation is good, but when we have bad weather we have problems with the porches. There is not enough closets in the houses. Perhaps you can consider this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We want to hear any concerns that you have because this is what we are here for. Any more comments on new houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): At present the houses that are shipped, the gyprock is not adequate. The walls could be easily broken by kids because they are made of bad material. This should be changed. We are not told what kind of houses are being shipped in, there should be more consultation on that regard. The gyprock is so thin, it could easily start on fire and we would like to prevent fire. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to know when the last time was that Pangnirtung got new houses, when they got them and when they expect to get more.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) The last houses we received were in 1982, there were six new houses then. This year we have been told that 15 new houses will be coming in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) There were going to be only 10 houses, we had to ask for more so they added five more houses, so there will be 15.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) How many applications do you have from people on waiting lists that need houses?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) For those who have no houses at all and for the younger people, if we put the totals together we need around 30 houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Paniloo.

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) This year there will be more people who need houses so we thought that maybe 50 was adequate. There are a lot of people in the community who need houses and they cannot get them right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen:

MR. PEDERSEN: Could you tell me what kind of houses these 15 new houses are? Are they three bedroom or four bedroom?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation): We were going to originally get 10 houses and they were all going to have three bedroom, but there will be five houses with four bedrooms.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, any more comments on new houses? Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Have you seen the designs for the new houses? Do you know what they are going to look like?

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) We have received the blueprints, they are going to be the same as what Broughton has -- A-frame.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further comments on new houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. My comments will be brief. Since the houses now have steel foundations. Will there be duplexes. The steel foundations should be closer together. The houses we are now living in, the steel foundations are too wide apart and the middle of the houses are sagging. If the piles are close together there will be no problems.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) There is not too many new houses, so I do not have too much to say on that item. People renting from the housing association who work for the government, whether territorial or federal, there should be some staff houses. As a board we feel this would solve some of the problems if the government would supply houses to their employees. There are some people who have worked for the government for a long time, they do not have staff houses, if they did, this would ease the problem of housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I have two comments. One on the government employees in public housing. We were provided the number of territorial employees in public housing sometime last winter. I do not remember exactly but I know it was more than 250 units across the NWT. The biggest single community was Frobisher Bay, they had more government employees in public housing than any other community.

The other comment I would like to make was on the steel pipe foundation. The other communities we have gone to and seen the type of houses that you will be getting this summer, they are not on steel pipe foundations, they are on gravel paddings with wooden blocks underneath. So I do not know if the plans you have seen are that they will be on steel pipe foundations because they are not, in the other communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ms Ooleepa Kilabuk.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: I just want to say that right now they are just fixing the padding foundations and they are steel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any more discussion on the new houses. Mr. Joanastie Maniapik.

MR. JOANASTIE MANIPIK: (Translation) Thank you. The concerns of the other people is that the younger people do not have enough houses available to them. This is a concern of the whole Territories. There are single parents that should be considered too because sometimes they have to live with their parents. There definitely has to be houses for couples as well as single parents because this could create problems in the home. I don't think there has ever been any houses for single people and for couples that are just married and we feel there should be houses for these people. Perhaps even apartment buildings built for younger people. Thank you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Some of us are not well off, or some children whose relatives have died and there is no one to take care of them, when there supporters are gone -- I am sure this will be happening. So there should be more houses that have one or two bedrooms for the younger people. I think these buildings should be considered for the future, because we need a lot of houses for the younger people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you very much. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to repeat what you said earlier, everything that is being said here is being recorded and when the transcript of it is made, the Housing Corporation will also get a copy of what is being said. They will see your comments about single, bachelor and two bedroom units. I just wanted to mention that we have not seen any of these on this trip, so far. But the Housing Corporation has been building them for some years in other parts of the NWT, in Coppermine, in the Kitekmeot Region for example, we have had fourplexes, four units stuck together, bachelor units. I think the first ones were built about five or six years ago and this year there are quite a few long buildings with seven one-bedroom units stuck together and a three bedroom unit on the end of the unit. So your comments on the need for these units will be recorded and the Housing Corporation will see them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Manasie Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) We really have to push the Housing Corporation on some of our requests. For example to get some new houses and also concerning the budget. This subject was probably already mentioned but we really want the communities to be consulted when they are preparing the budget, because they communities usually know how much money they will need and the Housing Corporation usually know how much they use in one year but they do not consider all the rising costs each year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I do not think there is anymore on new houses. Item four, lack of correspondence from the Housing Corporation.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation does not consult the communities enough as to what is available, such as money to purchase refrigerators and stoves. The associations are not informed. We just heard last month, and personally I have been on the board of directors for four years, and the Housing Corporation apparently has money to purchase new appliances if these break down.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to know how many years the Housing Corporation has been involved with Pangnirtung. When did they start building houses?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) In 1974 they start building houses. That is when they started to increase the rents.

MR. T'SELEIE: Since the Housing Corporation started to build houses did they ever have information meetings where they give people information, something like workshops to explain their policies, their rules, that kind of thing.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) From my understanding the directors in other communities are trained, especially the new board of directors. We have requested a workshop here in Pangnirtung because they board of directors have a lot of responsibility in the community. They have been here once and this was not too effective. The board of directors probably did not learn from that short workshop, but perhaps some of the other people on the board can answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Joanasi Maniapik.

MR. JOANASIE MANIPIK: (Translation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have requested a workshop because we have some difficult responsibilities. Maybe we think if we learn too much -- but we have requested it and never got it.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I think I agree with what this gentleman just said about us learning too fast. In other communities they seem to have a lot of problems with contractors coming in and building homes. They have been at it for a very long time but they still have not learned to put up proper houses to meet our needs. They are falling apart on us, no space for storage, no room for sewing for the ladies, no closet space or shelves. It seems that the southerners take longer to train than it is for us to teach us. We learn very fast, adapt very quickly.

John T'Seleie pretty well touched on the question I was going to ask, how often do you communicate with the district office in Frobisher Bay?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We have asked them to come here but they cannot come to train us. Even if they do come to the community there is a communication barrier.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Joanasie Maniapik.

MR. JOANASIE MANIPIK: (Translation) You probably understand that there is a big communication barrier between the corporation and us since you started this meeting. We have identified that there is not enough budget information available from different communities, that is one problem on communication. Also in the design of the building there is another problem in communication regarding consulting us on this. Even though we do not agree with the design, they are still being used in our community. We even try and ask the district manager to come here, he just refuses to arrive here. Sometimes it seems that they are afraid of the communities because there are different activities in each communities and we would like to hear from the corporation how the communication is from other communities. That is why we have that agenda item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee? Any presentations or comments on item four, lack of correspondence from the corporation? Ooiepa Kilabuk.

MS OOLEEPA KILABUK: (Translation) Sometimes we have our project person and we have difficulty communicating with them and they seem to be on vacation all the time. We need a lot of assistance. I would like some more support so if there is a major project the housing association does not have enough power. We never receive any correspondence from the Housing Corporation on how we should deal with the project and that causes a lot of problems. If we could get some more workshops or training programs I would be satisfied. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more comments. If not, is there any other business arising from the agenda. Also I would like to ask you, the older housing that are being rehabed. How do they construct them, from the inside or the outside? Mr. Manasie Evik.

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) Thank you Mr. Chairman. Presently, in the summer, the rehabs were done from the exterior. When it is done from the interior there is not enough space, so the exterior is better. The tenants have also said that they should be rehabed from the outside.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more comments from the special committee or the housing association? We will have a public meeting tonight and you will have an opportunity to ask questions. The public hearing will be open to anybody. We will adjourn only after everybody has brought up their concerns. We are here to do a public hearing. So if there are no more comments we will be back here at 7:00 P.M. Thank you.

I would also like to thank you for coming here and I know you will be able to make it tonight for the public hearing and I am glad to make it with you.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

PANGNIRTUNG, JUNE 11, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Before the meeting the minister of Pond Inlet will say a prayer. Please move to the table.

---Prayer

Our Special Committee on Housing consists of six MLAs and four alternate MLAs. We were appointed on February 1984, we will be reviewing the operation of the Housing Corporation and I will be introducing the Members to you. I am Ludy Pudluk from Resolute Bay, the elected Member for the High Arctic. The person next to my on my left is Arnold McCallum, the elected Member for the Fort Smith Region. The next person is Joe Arlooktoo, the elected Member for Baffin South representing Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. Also, another person John T'Seleie from the Western Arctic along the tree line. On my right is Eliza Lawrence who is also from past the tree line. Next to her is Red Pedersen from Coppermine, representing Kitikmeot.

Also we have Joanassie Akumalik, an interpreter who is from Clyde River and the next one is Jaypote Akeegoak from Grise Fiord, and the closest one is Malley Curley from Frobisher Bay. We also have support staff, Ms Penny Aumond standing over there. Also we have some alternative Members which I mentioned earlier. One is Mike Ballantyne representing Yellowknife and he is sitting at the back, and Michael Anqottitauruq who is from Gjoa Haven. If any one of the regular Members of the committee is unable to attend then these would be the alternates.

We wish to thank the hamlet council for inviting this special committee to hold a public meeting. We will be holding meetings in 10 communities in the Baffin Region and after six months we will have visited 40 communities so we will be reviewing the Housing Corporation. We will be making a report to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and make recommendations on the operation of the Housing Corporation and we are hoping that these changes will be suitable for housing in the communities and these recommendations will be based on your concerns. We cannot make any promises on changes yet until we have reviewed the operation and the budget system. Our mandate is to make the changes effectively and correctly and we will try to base our changes on your problems and concerns. We wish to hear your concerns and make recommendations if necessary. There will be a western representative speaking on behalf of the region and we wish to hear your community's concerns too. We want to find out how the Housing Corporation and the housing association are working together. If you wish to speak please come forward to the microphone in front and state your name when you come to the table as we are recording your concerns. There will be simultaneous interpretation. There will be a transcription of the hearings produced. Copies will be sent to the Housing Corporation in Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay and the community will also receive a copy of the transcript.

We are not working for the Housing Corporation but for you the people who have elected us. It is our responsibility as MLAs to look after the whole NWT not just each community. If there are some problems with housing it is up to you to come forward to present your concerns. One of the western MLAs would like to speak. Eliza Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank the community for inviting us. It is very important that you bring us your views and concerns so that we can make good recommendations to the Assembly at the next sitting which will be in November. I would like to encourage the ladies as well to come and speak because in our travels I notice in some new homes that are being built they have very limited storage room and some have no storage room at all or closets or shelves. There is no place for the ladies to do some sewing. That has been brought

to my attention as well. This problem of limited space is one I saw for myself. As Ludy has said we do not work for the Housing Corporation, we are all elected Members and hopefully any views and concerns that you bring up will be considered seriously in our recommendations. In my area we have a little different problem but some are similar to yours. We have a lot to build homes on and we encourage people to use those lots and build their own homes. When the housing came in, that changed some too as well because they encouraged the people to move into the houses that the government built for them and destroy their old homes. And now the rent is very high and is getting out of their reach, some of them are experiencing a lot of problems. For that reason when Ludy made the motion last winter, I seconded the motion to establish the special committee on housing. It is very important that we hear your concerns and views tonight. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. I would like you to be aware that anyone of the public is welcome to give their views, male or female. We will not judge you by your looks. We will have another MLA speak. From the Western Arctic, Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would simply like to indicate that we all represent, on this committee, different parts of the NWT, the East as well as the West, and some places in the North and even further down into the tree area. We seriously want to hear what you feel about housing that we could help you try to bring about. I am very pleased to be here again in Pangnirtung. I appreciate the hospitality that has been given to us by the present Member who represents this constituency, Pauloosie Paniloo, and also your former MLA, who I worked with, Ipeelee Kilabuk. Tonight we are hoping we will be able to hear from a number of you to indicate to us what you see we could do to help bring about some changes in housing for the people of the Territories. Thank you, Ludy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We have held a lot of meetings but this is the largest crowd. The table is now open for anyone who would like to speak on the matter of housing. Pauloosie Paniloo.

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) I would like to thank the special committee for coming here. I am sorry there is no more snow or we would have gone fishing. I would also like to thank the people of Pangnirtung for coming in such a large crowd. I am glad that the people of Pangnirtung were able to consult with me about their views on housing beforehand. They will present their own views shortly and I will summarize some of the concerns expressed to me by others who are not here tonight. In Pangnirtung there are a lot of problems on rent scales and that causes a problem for the employees also. The operating policy is difficult for us to change and we would like to have the rent scales considered because the Housing Corporation usually raises the rent scales when they see us receiving good money and the rent scales are implemented very frequently.

On another item, there is a shortage of houses here, and even if we request more houses we do not receive any at all. Here in Pangnirtung people think the Housing Corporation should respond to their requests. The housing association here in Pangnirtung does not have much power or none at all and so the housing association in Pangnirtung is requesting that more power be given to them so they could look after what they are responsible for. They wish to be responsible for the design of the houses which are to be constructed and in that way the people would be more satisfied. It would help the operation of the housing associations to have that power. There is a big problem when there is a big family in a small house and then health hazards have to be considered. I would like the special committee to consider all these matters. I think it is up to the Housing Corporation but I wish to stress that also. These are the main things I wanted to bring up. I am sure that the people from Pangnirtung will speak their concerns. If there are any questions I will be available to reply.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Thank you. I want the people to know that we will not be answering the questions that much but we will direct your questions to the Housing Corporation. Anyone from the floor may speak. If no one wants to speak we can end the meeting.

MR. JOANASIE MANIPIK: (Translation) I do not have much to say but I would like to urge the people to speak out their concerns because we do have a problem and I want people to speak about whatever concerns they have so that this meeting will progress faster. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Please also keep in mind that after this meeting we will not be coming back with this committee on housing. Also, once we are finished I do not think there will be another committee set up to investigate the housing problem in the near future. This is probably a one-time opportunity that you have.

MS IOLA METUK: (Translation) I have some concerns that I want to bring up. First of all, I have never heard if there are any policies regarding the houses that are deteriorating and the houses that are damaged by the wind. I would like to see some kind of policy on these because nearly 10 houses have been destroyed and have never been replaced. Also I would like to see a replacement policy for the houses damaged by fire or wind. The houses we rent are so expensive we cannot keep up with the increases in rent. I have a motion that was made by the RRC at their 14th conference, directed to the Housing Corporation. There have been a lot of motions but we have received responses only to some of them. If the committee would like to see these motions I have a copy for you. There are concerns that are coming from every community in Baffin. There are a great many concerns in Pangnirtung but these are the main ones which I wanted to bring up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Yes, we would definitely like a copy of the motions that were made. Any questions from the special committee? Thank you. Who else would like to speak? Ipeelee.

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I used to be one of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I will state my concerns very briefly because I have raised them many times. I am sure you will hear the concerns right from the people and I am sure the recommendations will affect all the communities across the North, so I will be serious in stating my concerns. This first one was one that I had a problem with when I was a Member of the Legislative Assembly. The staff of the Housing Corporation do not get superannuation, so this creates a problem in the NWT. Other staff working for government do not have this problem. When staff of the Housing Corporation have been working for a long time quit, they do not get any superannuation and this is the current status up to today. Ever since I became a Member of the Assembly this has been one of my concerns.

The housing association has never had any power. They should be given more control and power because they know the community and they see the problems and see the houses themselves. They listen to their people. I am not happy with the Housing Corporation because they do not know the problem inside the community. They just create policies and rent scales without informing the people.

Regarding the old houses which have never been rehabed or renovated. Some of them are okay and we will be getting new houses but the older houses have the same rent scales as the new ones as long as the tenant is working. The rent is quite high and this is one of my great concerns today. The new houses being built in the NWT are being built with steel foundations. I completely disagree with them. I do not want to see them anywhere because the earth is moving all the time. Probably in 20 years the houses would not break because they are using steel and the earth is moving all the time, so it damages the house before its time. This is what I have seen in our community. If they have steel foundations some houses have been damaged already because of the earth movement and you cannot fix them or do anything about it. Because we are moved by the wind quite a bit when you are walking around in the house it feels like you are in a boat because it moves around so much. I feel that if the nails are not secure it will just break the building. What I would like to see is good padding for the houses to be built in the North because we have to let the people know that our land does not melt. It seems like land but there is a lot of permafrost underground. I would like you to keep that in mind and if the house has good padding it will last longer.

The housing association board of directors when they are trying to order some materials they have a hard time getting them because they are under the control of others. I would like them to have more control in ordering and they should be consulted before they are told what to do. Sometimes when they try to order some material for parts they do not even approve it. There will be houses coming in from now on and we should be consulted before they start making the blueprints. There is no storage area in the houses we get now. I do not think the Housing Corporation ever thinks of painting the houses. When you want to paint a house they always say there is no paint. The housing association should be consulted and asked about how the house should be. The board of directors of the housing association have asked for paint and brushes but they can never get approval from the Housing Corporation. In the future I would like to see a better system and after you have visited each community collecting people's concerns I hope the Housing Corporation will listen to your recommendations. It would make me feel a lot better about the future. We will try to give our representatives some concerns so they can be heard at the Legislative Assembly. These are the main concerns but if I think of anything else I will not hesitate to speak again. If you have any questions please feel free to ask them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. JOE ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is what kind of foundation would you like to see?

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman, personally, I feel the best thing is concrete because as long as it is touching sand or anything a little bit hard it is the best material.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I understand. My other question is touching upon you concern about when the housing association is trying to order paint the Housing Corporation does not approve them. Is it because the Housing Corporation does not have any money or is it because it is not time for that certain house to be painted. What reason do they give you?

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) I have never heard whether they have disapproved it but I have asked a couple of times, after how many years would the house be ready for painting and I have never received an answer. I have tried to find out from the housing association but I do not know really who is responsible for rejecting the request for painting the house. I wanted to raise this issue because paint is very expensive if an Inuk tried to buy it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any further questions from the special committee?

MR. SIMON SAIMAIYUQ: (Translation) This is the first time I have ever spoken to a public meeting. In the past I have heard that when the houses were damaged by wind -- our houses were almost blown away by the wind. We are still living in the house which is quite damaged and my concern that I would like to express to you is that we have been expecting to get this house fixed for some time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the Members of the special committee? Thank you, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: When did this wind damage happen? Was it this year, last year or how long ago was that?

MR. SIMON SAIMAIYUQ: (Translation) Probably around 1975.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is there further questions from the Members?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have additional comments -- I am going to work on them while you are here on the main concerns or the main complaints that we have because it is our only chance.

The main complaint that I have is about the increase in rents. We are given very little notice about the increase, we are just told, and we cannot be involved in changing these rent scales. We are not consulted and even the housing association cannot change this rent increase. Our main concern is about the frequent increase of rent for the tenant. Some of the houses are not suitable to get an increase and it will be ideal if they slow down this frequent increase of rent. And that's why I wanted to voice my concern regarding the match box houses we were referring to, the tenants are paying the same rent scale as the larger buildings and this does not seem fair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the Members of the special committee?

MR. PAULOOSIE VEEVEE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pauloosie Veevee is my name. I have a great concern and I hope I can get it across to you. I would like to touch on the subject of the Housing Corporation. I feel the Housing Corporation should consider this especially as the people who are employed -- when they are writing up our income tax we are told that in this certain year you made this large amount of money and you are not paying enough rent. We are told this by the Housing Corporation and the large amount we are paying for rent we are just losing that. For that reason we owe a lot of money to income tax and that's one of the reasons I came to sit here because it is a great concern to us.



I know that if you are working for the government, the staff houses are fully furnished and even though I am a government employee I am staying in public housing. When I moved in there was just a floor, nothing else, and this will probably be dealt with from some of the public because if we all give our concerns, even though they are all the same, I know we will have more power in order to change these concerns.

Another problem is that everytime the people who are living in government staff housing increase their staff house, then the Housing Corporation just follows the government scale and I don't think its fair to increase public housing every time because there is nothing in these houses but the floor. And I think that the more people that speak on the same subject you will have more power to make changes. And I would like to thank the people who came here to help us.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would like to thank you for your presentation. Are there any questions from the Members of the special committee? Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You'll excuse me if I ask you a question in return. With the amount of rent that you pay now, whether in public housing or staff housing, do you think it would be better for you if the rent could be applied to buying the house, so that you would then own it rather than rent it?

MR. PAULOSIE VEEVEE: (Translation) I would not want to own the house. When I get my own house I think it would cost more money -- I never even thought about having a house of my own. My retirement is just around the corner because I have been working for the government for a very long period of time. When I see the business people that own their own house, they pay a lot of money toward their house. Am I clear on that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Anymore questions from the special committee Members?

MR. MANASIE EVIK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Manasie Evik. We have approached you with what we think the housing association needs. First of all, we would like some assistance from the special committee. I would like the public to know. The budget which is given to us and the employed people is not enough. The housing association has to request to the Housing Corporation the amount of funding they want and that's when there is problems because when we request funds we only get a little bit of money so we need some assistance and would like to use you as a channel in order to get what we need.

Somebody else said earlier about public housing or home-ownership. When the Housing Corporation knows how much an individual is earning they deduct a lot of money for rent as a priority. So, we also need your assistance on that. Right now living up here is very costly and we cannot catch up with our rent when we have to buy food. Even the money we receive for food is put aside for rent and that is one of problems.

And thirdly, the new houses being built in our town do not have furniture and there are some older people alone in a house. These people have to buy their own furniture and they can't afford it, so we would like you to consider that and maybe get some assistance on that.

Item four, we have a lack of communication from the Housing Corporation and we do not receive a budget forecast. The matter on funding is a major problem and there are some jobs available in our community, so I think if we could receive more money the Housing association would have more employment. We are also asking for assistance with the budget and also if the communities could be more informed of how much funding is available to the housing associations and not just set up by the Housing Corporation. These are some of the views we have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee?

MR. IPELE UNIUSHAGAK: (Translation) My name is Ipele Uniushagak. I think we also have to consider older people. The older people need assistance sometimes and I was wondering if these older people could have plumbing in their houses, this should be considered. I don't have many comments to make but this is the main concern I have and if you could consider this I would appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Anybody else?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) State your name, please.

MR. IOLA METUQ: (Translation) My name is Iola Metuq. I am here at the table to bring up two views. Last summer I was visiting each community in Baffin Island. In the Baffin Region the houses are all the same in each community. And in each community, even though they function differently, if they could change the operations -- some of the houses are not well constructed to face heavy winds. Not too long ago, we had a very heavy wind and I didn't get enough sleep because my house was moving. The Housing Corporation should be told what kind of community it is before they fix up the units, so it could suit the community.

I forgot something else that I wanted to say. When I was in Yellowknife -- I went there for a conference as an observer, and there was a resolution passed regarding the electricity bills being paid by the tenants. We, in the Eastern Arctic don't have any trees and I wouldn't want any part of paying electricity bills. I think the Housing Corporation should be told that the people are not satisfied with this. I don't think I was too clear earlier, that when BRC had a session we invited Housing Corporation members but they did not come to our session. That's how hard they are to consult with. So I wanted you to know that when the Housing Corporation is invited they should come. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee Members? Who else wants to go up to the table? Don't mind our tiredness, we are just going to wait.

---Laughter

MS ANNIE OOKALIQ: (Translation) Hello, my name is Annie Ookaliq. I would just like to make a few comments regarding the houses that are being built. Right now the houses that are being built are raised and we receive a lot of wind here and there have been houses that were blown over in the past. I would like to suggest that the Housing Corporation build the houses closer to the ground. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the Members of the special committee?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have some concerns that I want to bring up. When the government rents go up, the housing association rent also has to follow that increase. The first one I want to talk about is the staff -- even when their salaries are not increased, if they are going to follow the government rent scales some people just don't want to work anymore because they are paying such high rents. The housing association should have some say in the rent scale because the housing association houses don't even have furniture but the government staff housing is fully furnished.

The last comment I want to make is that the government staff salaries increase five per cent every year and when the Housing Corporation raises the salaries of their employees they have to pay so much for rent, we have hardly any money left to buy food. So I want to bring this up to you so you can bring it up to the appropriate agency. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee?

MR. JOANASIE MANIPIK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot to mention some concern I have. Because we are always lacking houses in our community, the government staff cannot get housing from the government so therefore they have to rent from the housing association and we are lacking so many houses. We were wondering if the government staff could be housed by the government because we certainly don't have enough houses to rent out. Could you keep that in mind that we are lacking houses because the government employees are using our houses.

I would like to elaborate on what I brought up before about the older people -- a lot of people don't have employment and still have to pay the same amount of rent, this has to be considered very seriously. I am urging the people to speak up about matters like this because we have never been satisfied with the Housing Corporation. And the Housing Corporation don't have enough field workers in the communities and sometimes when the Housing Corporation people come to town they don't even go and check the houses and when we request more houses they think there is enough already because they are not checking out anything when they are in the communities.

So I want you to tell them about that because if they ever checked the houses they would know what our problems are. There are a lot of people here with concerns so therefore I urge them to bring them up now while we have this opportunity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee? Anybody else that would like to speak?

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) I forgot one of the topics that I wanted to bring up. The older people that cannot help themselves properly should have the same kind of houses as the people that pay rent. I wonder if the Housing Corporation could set up some kind of housing directly for the older people, so these people can have running water and proper washing facilities. Perhaps this has been tried in the Territories, I would like to see that in the future for our community.

The Housing Corporation has many houses in the Territories. Here in Pangnirtung their staff cannot keep up with the maintenance that has to be done. I am wondering if they could increase the funding so they could have enough employees to do the maintenance on these houses. I would like to see this happen because every year the furnaces have to be checked and maintained at least once a year but it is not done on all the houses because they don't have enough employees. So I would like to see the funding raised so there is enough employees to do the maintenance on all the houses. This would also create more employment in the communities.

Another thing and probably some people don't want to hear this is, but our younger people have their own mind too, so they would like to have their own private house. So this will have to be seriously considered for the future. I think the Housing Corporation should be building houses for these people because these young people can be on their own too. Myself, I would like to see if they could increase the staff of the Housing Corporation so they could catch up with their workload.

I think the wiring of the houses should be checked once or twice a year because there is a lot of fires caused by faulty wiring or the furnaces because they are not inspected enough. So probably we have lost some houses unnecessarily. I think they should check the houses more frequently in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to Ipeelee for making things so clear. It has been mentioned a few times tonight and earlier today about houses being damaged by wind. I lived here for awhile and I know what the winds are like but I think many of the other people sitting here do not fully understand what winds can do to a house. Maybe Ipeelee can tell us -- I think there's been 10 houses destroyed -- maybe he could tell us exactly what happens to these houses from the wind.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Ipeelee.

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) Mr. Chairman. My main reason was I wanted the houses to be inspected -- when the houses start moving there could be some fires when the wires start coming off. So therefore if inspections are not done properly they will never know about the faulty wiring from the winds. Do you understand what I mean?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions? Red.

MR. PEDERSEN: Not really a question but I wanted Ipeelee to describe, for the sake of the people who do not live here, what happened to the houses that were destroyed in 1975. I think they just got picked up and thrown down, but when I tell people that they always tell me that I am full of bs. Maybe you could tell them.

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) The first one I want to mention is the airstrip -- there was a garage up there made of metal -- it went across to the other side of the airstrip. Also there was a house that was blown away, it went over the skidoos that were on the side of the house, it was blown away about 20 feet. And also there use to be a nursing station here -- and it has still foundations, it was probably about 20 to 25 feet away where it landed. It just flew! As I indicated earlier they should have good foundations. Did I clarify myself. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further questions from the special committee. The government staff houses are inspected probably by an expert from Frobisher and then they are also repairs being done to furnaces and also any materials that need to be fixed the housing

association doesn't have those and the only local people are being hired to maintain these houses. Would it be better if there is an inspector coming into the communities -- the reason why these people would be coming here is because these maintenance workers are too busy here.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Mr. Chairman, personally I do not agree with you and I have my own concern. I feel that there are some people trained for this right here in the community and I would like to see money available for us to use these people that are trained. I would want to see us use our own local people to do the maintenance in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further comments?

MR. PUDLUQ KILABUK: I have some different views that I would like to express. The Housing Corporation in the NWT started running the housing associations. Since the Housing Corporation took over they have stopped hiring local people to do some work. The way I see it now is that the government employees in the community are taken out to training and have become supervisors. The way that I have seen it is that they are exactly the same as me, and even though they cannot write in English they are being hired by the government and us people who used to work for the Housing Corporation and we tried to work for a long time, however this program from the Housing Corporation has been rejected or stopped. If the local people here have no papers or certificates they are not being hired. I feel that the Housing Corporation should not reject these training programs. Even if a person cannot read English the Housing Corporation still should treat them like any other government employee.

Another concern that I have is regarding people who used to be plumbers helpers and also carpenters helpers. I used to work as an electrician and started picking up the journeymans practices, but then the Housing Corporation stopped hiring us people. This is what I see happening, the Housing Corporation is not hiring the local people who are willing and who are capable to do such work because they do not have the proper papers. I had a certificate, but in order to get the certificate I had to go for further training in order to keep it. The housing association knows some people who know how to work and know what has to be done, but the Housing Corporation policy does not recognize these repairs. The people in the community would like to see more of their people employed even if they do not have a certificate.

Also another concern is regarding the elders, which was brought up earlier. The houses that the elders are living in are not suitable because they have no plumbing and running water. We thought we would get even with the housing association by protesting the high rental situation. This is all that I have to say at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? These programs cancelled by the Housing Corporation, when did they cancel them?

MR. PUDLUQ KILABUK: (Translation) From my understanding this is the fifth year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any further questions?

MR. ELIJAH NOWDLAK: My concern is regarding the Housing Corporation. I have lived here in Pangirtung for about 20 years and I have never approached the housing association with my concerns. In 1953 when I was ill, I had to move into the hospital and since then I have been handicapped. I moved out of the hospital in 1959. The doctor told me that if it was possible to stay in a clean house and it is quite hard to have a clean house when the building is so old and there is no running water. I myself and for other people who are handicapped would like to move into a house where the building is suitable for our needs.

Regarding the foundation, concrete is the best foundation to use up here because it contacts with the mud. If the house is built right on top of the soil, when the spring comes the house starts to shift. This is all that I have to say and I would like to thank you, the special committee for giving me a chance to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Mr. Pauloosie Paniloo.

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) I would like to bring up some more problems that we face here in Pangirtung. There are some people who cannot afford their rent and who are way behind due to unemployment. The support that we would like from you, is that the people who are way behind in their rent are going to be sent to court. I would urge the Housing Corporation to have a better approach to the people who are behind in their bills and not go through the courts. I would like this problem brought up to the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any further questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: For the people who are behind in their rent, I wonder how you would deal with it, rather than bringing these people to court? What would a good solution too that be?

MR. PAULOOSIE PANILOO: (Translation) This was brought up by the Housing Corporation when they were having a conference in Frobisher Bay. I think it would be better if the housing association had more power to deal with the person who is behind in their rent. Does this answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any more questions from the special committee? Thank you. Are there anymore comments from the public? Perhaps we can break for 15 minutes and then when we come back you can state anymore views that you might have.

---SHORT RECESS

A SPEAKER (Male): I am one of the tenants of these barn houses. When we need some major repairs done, the housing association does not have any authority to do so. This past winter there were heavy cables strapped on the roofs, so that we would be prepared in case of any strong winds. Right now the housing association says that they cannot do any major repairs. I am not quite sure who is responsible for these houses. I heard that the Housing Corporation is responsible for these units. Could I get an answer please, on who is responsible for these units?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) We are not the Housing Corporation and we do not work for the Housing Corporation. We are working with you. The question that you are asking will be recorded so that we can refer this question to the Housing Corporation. I would like to ask you a question. Since you have moved into your house have they put cables back after they took them off?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) They were working on the units during the summer and I approached the housing association about this matter but they said they cannot do anything about this matter. This is the reply that they had for me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the committee? We will definitely record your concerns and then get back to you at a later date. Any more questions from the public? Please go to the table.

MR. JAYCO KAKUSUK?: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to support some of the comments regarding the rent scale. I wonder if the party responsible could decrease the rent scale on the larger houses. We are long-time employees and when we want skidoos sometimes we have difficulty buying them because of our rent being so high, we have no money. An example is myself, I am a Hudson's Bay employee, and I am behind in my rent. So I would like to see a decrease in the rent scale.

I had been a member of the board of directors so I know exactly what is happening. The housing association board is elected by the residents and the association does not have much power when they have any requests. The Housing Corporation just looks at the problems facing the people but they do not do anything about them.

There is an organization called the housing federation which is supposed to have power. I feel that the federation does not have enough power because the housing association in the communities state their problems to the federation, hoping that they can deal with it but still nothing is done. This is all that I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee? Thank you. Are there any presentations to be made?

MS TAPITIA KAKKIK: (Translation) I just want to say that I live in a match box. There are three of us living in our house and we only have one bedroom. Also there is no bath. I am wondering if it is possible to move into a bigger house with better facilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions from the special committee? Thank you. Any more comments?

MR. PAULOOSIE QARPIK: (Translation) I will make my comments very brief. It is regarding my small house. In the wintertime it gets to cold and the snow drifts in through the door. Could you please consider this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are you talking about the small match box houses?

MR. PAULOOSIE QARPIK: (Translation) Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) If you do not mind, I would like to ask you how old you are?

MR. PAULOOSIE QARPIK: (Translation) I am about 75 years old.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I think what you just brought up is going to help us a great deal because as we have heard before the older people should be considered very seriously. They should have better housing.

MR. PAULOOSIE QARPIK: (Translation) I would like very much to get a bigger house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Thank you. Are there anymore comments? Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk.

MR. IPEELEE KILABUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding electricity. I want some information as to after how many kilowatt hours will they be paying. I want all the people in Pangirtung to be informed so that they know. I would ask that the housing association bring this information as soon as possible. We have heard that this pay system will be in existence and we are wondering after how many kilowatt hours will we be starting to pay for electricity.

I would also like to support Jayco Kakusuk's views on the federation in Baffin Region not having enough power. Should you the special committee decide on whether the housing association or the housing federation should have the most power. For example, if the housing federation gets power it seems that the local people will also have power because the federation will be operating through us. This is all that I have to bring up if there are no further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any further questions? Thank you. According to what you have been speaking about we will be making some recommendations of the concerns of the people. Would somebody please say something. I do not think there are anymore questions to be raised so the Western representative has some comments to make before I make my closing remarks. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I wish I could say at this time that we are here to answer all of your problems, but we are not here to do that. We are here to listen to your views and concerns. We can only make recommendations, and hopefully any recommendations that we make in the interim report this fall, will be considered seriously. We have a new Minister now and he is from the Keewatin. Because he is living with these problems hopefully he will have a better understanding and I hope that we can make some changes for the better in all of the communities. We have heard many concerns and we will be visiting more communities in the next few months. I would just like to say thank you again for inviting us. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. I also would like to thank all of you, because almost all of you came to the meeting. It makes it more obvious that you are very concerned on the housing problems. I was elected for the first time in 1975, so that I could be a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Since then I have been trying to deal with the Housing Corporation but they are very hard to deal with because they seem to be run by two bodies, the NWT and the federal government. So they are very hard to deal with. The last time after the election, I was getting very frustrated over the operation of the Housing Corporation. Yellowknife headquarters is very far from our side and the regional headquarters in Frobisher doesn't seem too concerned about the problems that our communities have. Last year during the winter session, I made a motion to create a special committee on housing from the elected Members, so they can visit the communities. We started from Grise Fiord and up to Pangirtung, we still have to go to Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. Every meeting that we go to I get more excited because the Inuit have great concerns over the housing situations. For these reasons I am very happy that we are able to come to different communities. I am sure we have received a lot of concerns from all of you.

and we will try to improve the housing situation in the future. I am sure we can look forward to improvements in the future. I would just like to thank you again for inviting us and if you have any other concerns that you would like to bring up once we are gone, you can write to us, or use your representative. Thank you very much for coming to the meeting and I am sure we will see each other again in the future. Thank you.

---Applause

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

FROBISHER BAY, JUNE 12, 1984

(The following verbatim proceedings (pages 112 - 151) are separate meetings held with: the NWT Housing Association; Mayor of Frobisher Bay; Baffin Housing Federation; Director of Social Services, Town of Frobisher Bay; Frobisher Bay Housing Association; and the Hillside Housing Co-op. Page 152 is the start of the public meeting.)

MEETING WITH NWT HOUSING CORPORATION AND GNWT ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Before we start I will introduce who we are. I am Ludy Pudluk, co-chairmen of the special committee; on my left is Arnold McCallum, from the Fort Smith Region, who is also the co-chairmen; Joe Arlooktoo is next for Lake Harbour; John T'Seleie from Sahtu Region; on my right is Eliza Lawrence, Tu Nedhe; and Red Pedersen, for Kitikmeot West Region. These are the Members of the Special Committee on Housing. We have the alternate Members, Mike Ballantyne for Yellowknife North; Michael Angottitauruq, for Kitikmeot East; and Pauloosie Paniloo was also with us when we were at his constituency which helped us very much, and we would like to thank him. There will be some presentations made from the regional housing corporation and after he makes his presentation anyone who is not in the special committee can ask some questions if they wish. I would like to thank you for being able to come to this meeting and the assistant regional director and one from the personnel office. I would also like to introduce the support staff, Mc Penny Aumond, who is our co-ordinator. We also have three interpreters, I think you all know them, they are from Baffin Island. So if you want to start your presentations, you can do so now. What you tell us will help us very much in the work that we are trying to do. Please start now.

MR. HERB HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My job is the district manager for the Housing Corporation in Frobisher Bay. I understood the purpose for this meeting this morning was two-fold for me to make a presentation on some of the major issues that I see on the management of housing in Frobisher Bay. I understood that there were some questions that you might have regarding some problems and issues as you see them.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to meet this morning. Unfortunately I feel that there will not be sufficient time to discuss in detail the analyst array of problems and issues associated with the management of housing in this district. Nor is there time to review the solutions that are planned and those that have been put into effect to address many of those problems. The thrust of my presentation will therefore deal with what I perceive to be a more generic problem associated with housing in this district. Mr. Chairman, consider that the subsidized rental program has fostered a total dependence on government to provide all of the solutions to the need and demand for more and better housing in this area. Programs in place currently, are geared to address the overall needs of the community, rather than the needs of the individual, have relieved the individual of responsibility for provision of maintenance and upkeep of shelter and have undermined the major economic stemness in the Baffin Region. That stemness is a real estate market and a viable construction industry.

Mr. Chairman, I maintain that the Housing Corporation, because of its emphasis on the public housing program, is more of a social agency than it is a housing agency. There are a number of problems and concerns with the various construction programs, vis-a-vis the provision of local labour and it is often perceived as an excellent labour market for construction workers in southern Canada.

Mr. Chairman, I maintain that the many problems we encountered are not those associated with the program; but the programs themselves. There is no doubt that there is an identified need for more and better housing in almost every community in this district. I maintain however that there is a surplus of public housing units and to continue to try and meet the total housing needs through the public housing program would, in my opinion, perpetuate housing problems and concerns.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I wonder if you could put your mike up a little bit more. Thank you. Please continue.

MR. HERB HUNT. Mr. Chairman, even if the fiscal and human resources resource levels were provided to properly maintain and operate those programs, there would still be a problem of tenant responsibility and a dependence upon government for the provision of shelter. Likewise the future development of a housing industry, an economic development in general, would be undermined. Therefore the solutions I see for long-term resolution of housing and related problems in this district are as follows:

- 1) Hold the inventory of public housing units at its current level. Gradually phase in the program of restricting eligibility for public housing to individuals and families of low incomes, and fund the program to allow a satisfactory level of operation and upkeep;
- 2) To address the current and future demand for housing by concentrating on the delivery of home-ownership programs by providing incentive for the private sector to invest in the housing market and restrict direct government investment into housing in specialized areas only, such as into senior citizens programs.

Mr. Chairman, private housing starts is generally considered one of the prime indicators of consumer confidence in the economy. I maintain that now is the time to create an environment for the individual and the private sector to invest in housing, thereby fostering consumer confidence and economic development in general.

My experience shows that there is a widespread interest in home-ownership programs and some indication of interest by the private sector to invest in housing projects. Mr. Chairman, I am suggesting that your committee can best address the future housing needs by recommending a major program shift for the delivery of housing programs as follows:

- a) suspend all further investment by this government in direct provision of rental housing programs, both those programs administered by the Housing Corporation and by the Departments of Public Works and Personnel;
- b) direct all future resources, both capital and O and M, into programs which would stimulate both individual and private sector investment into housing projects;

Mr. Chairman, over the years it has not been uncommon to hear me say that home-ownership and private investment in housing is not only good, it is the only way we will ever come close to addressing the housing problem. I have yet to hear someone disagree with this point of view. I have seen however, the application of government programs which contradict this point of view. The application of user-pay for various services and the provision of low rental housing are two such deterrents.

Mr. Chairman, I will close my presentation here. I would like to stress, my objective in making this presentation is not to criticize the past programs and the many accomplishments in the development of housing, rather it is to recommend solutions to addressing the current and future housing problems in the NWT. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Hunt. Making changes for the future may not be easy but as long as we work together we will find solutions. The Special Committee on Housing is not trying to criticize the Housing Corporation, we are trying to assist them in trying to help our constituents. For that reason we created this special committee. We are not trying to stop their programs but we would like to keep our people happy on housing matters. If there are any questions please feel free to ask. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: You see home-ownership as the ultimate solution to many of the problems. I agree with you in the Western Arctic, home-ownership has a lot of potential. On this trip to the Baffin, we found no, or very little public will to pursue home-ownership and very little evidence that the Housing Corporation is pursuing this objective in more than a very small way. Perhaps you can explain what has been done in the East to encourage home-ownership. Do you think it is really a viable option here in the Baffin? How would you make it attractive to people?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Ballantyne, I would certainly agree with you that over the years there has been very little effort made in the promotion of a home-ownership program. I joined the Housing Corporation two years ago and one of the features of this job that attracted me was the formidable challenge that was presented in terms of trying to address the need and demand for housing. I have

lived in this part of the North for the past 19 years and I have always found great difficulty with the position that home-ownership is not feasible, therefore we should do nothing to promote that program.

On taking the position of district manager, it has been one of the major thrusts, certainly in terms of my management here, to identify the need for home-ownership, to identify the kinds of programs that are needed to promote home-ownership, and to try to encourage the implementation of those programs. Over the past couple of years we have sold some 40 units of northern rental houses to home-owners. That to me is an indication that there is an interest there, it also indicates that it is a viable proposition. We are this year, just bringing in programs that would promote home-ownership. The SSHAG program that was delivered in the Western Arctic was not deemed to be a viable program for this part of the world, so it resulted in a major program shift. The home-ownership assistance program, we are delivering five units under that program here this year. We are delivering in Frobisher Bay, five rural and remote houses. We are delivering that program on speculation that it is through the delivery of that program that we will identify what are the possible modifications to that program to meet the need and demand.

I think it is quite admirable that the territorial government as a whole has moved into an area of promoting home-ownership, particularly for its employees. The kinds of incentives that are offered there are making it very attractive, and employees, particularly in Frobisher Bay, but interest in other communities as well, have increased a hundredfold over the last year.

There is not question that there are deterrents to those kinds of programs: the capital to invest into housing projects is not readily available, financial institutions will not consider mortgages and loans to individuals; the cost of money is high; the operating costs of houses are high in terms of municipal services, fuel, electricity and taxes.

Mr. Chairman, one of the things I would hope that this committee would consider is ways and means of lowering those costs to make home-ownership attractive, feasible and viable and to replace the public housing program with those kinds of programs. There are a number of incentives that are offered right now to reduce costs: there is a subsidy for electricity; there can be a subsidy for fuel; we offer subsidies in terms of the capital costs of building a house by providing a housing package or by subsidizing a mortgage under rural and remote. I look at it from the point of view that home-ownership is a program that should not be considered as not viable but that it is a program that should be looked at as not being delivered in this area. Let us deliver the program and make sure that it works and work out the bugs to deliver such a program that will address the individual needs of people, family needs of people, rather than collective needs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: That just partially answers my question. I think your example of successes in the home-ownership don't necessarily prove that it is going to work over here. Turning houses over to people at a reasonable rate, I think there will be certain people that will like that but that you will reach a saturation point. The other programs have only just begun, you are fooling yourself if you think that home-ownership in the Eastern Arctic in the immediate future is going to replace public housing. I don't think it will. I see that it should be encouraged and that we should come up with innovative ways to attract people to purchase their own homes, but I think we are living in a fools paradise if we think in the next five years that that is going to alleviate this program to any great extent. In every community, there are very, very few people that are interested in it at this point in time. With a mixed economy here, where we have people out on the land and partially in the wage economy, the fluctuation in the wages that they make, realistically it is very difficult to expect that sort of consistent income every year that one usually expects when one owns ones own home. I agree with you that the option should be there and that we should push it but I still think we are going to have to come to grips with the problems in public housing with rent and all these other things. I don't see this as a total viable option to public housing.

If I can Mr. Chaiman, in your opening remarks you touched on that as sort of a broad philosophy, as you said you would do. But I wonder, to ask a specific question, do you see for instance that the Housing Corporation could better respond to the needs of the people of the NWT if it was split into two corporations, an eastern and western, if it was decentralized a little more? What is your own personal view? I know it is a tough question, I suppose you have to take the party line in this somewhat, but whatever you can say in that regard will help us.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I sometimes have been known as an individual who has not taken the party line. First of all perhaps I could offer a rebuttal on the home-ownership side. I think the thrust in the point of my presentation somewhere along the line has been missed. The thrust of my presentation is that we are able to meet the current demand for people who need rental housing through existing programs. There are people out there who fit in a category of having a stable income, having a reasonably good income, who have expressed interest in home-ownership programs and by promoting home-ownership programs we can take up the remaining slack in the supply and demand through that program.

In terms of my opening remarks, and whether or not the splitting of the corporation into two would address the problem. Mr. Chairman, I think in the formation of the corporation, a formidable challenge was offered and a challenge that did not provide the resources necessary to deliver a program adequately. I view the major problem in terms of managing housing at the level that we have is a lack of human resources and a lack of fiscal resources. That is the major complaint that I am getting from housing associations. It is a complaint that I fully agree with. They do not have enough maintenance personnel to maintain the houses. They do not have enough funding in their budget to allow them to provide some competitive ways to allow them to attract qualified trades people. It is a problem that I am facing here as well, in trying to address the total needs of maintenance, upkeep, repair of houses, many of which are in deplorable condition because of lack of maintenance and the lack of qualified staff to deliver various programs at the community level have presented those problems that you are identifying. Any structural change that you might contemplate, will not address the problem solely by making a structural change, there has to be influx of resources, both fiscal and human, in order to address many of those problems. You cannot repair structural faults on 200 houses by wishing to do so, you have to have the funding, the budget and the staff to maintain those houses.

MR. MCCALLUM: I wonder Mr. Hunt if you have considered giving us a copy of your opening remarks.

MR. HERB HUNT: Certainly.

MR. BALLANTYNE: You did sort of follow the party line, you didn't exactly say whether we should be divided or not but nonetheless. I will rephrase the question. I agree with you that any form of structural change will not wholly solve the problem but there is a school of thought that says, a positive structural change might be able to maximize or officially hold the present level of resources. I wonder if you could give me, in your opinion, how you see the role of the housing associations and the role of the federation vis-a-vis the Housing Corporation. Do you see that that role should be strengthened would that be positive or do you see that role should be removed totally? What is your viewpoint of the pluses and the minuses of the roles of both the housing associations and the federations?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I find that somewhat of a difficult question to answer because it depends upon the kinds of programs that are decided for delivery. In terms of the public housing program there certainly is a need for organizations at community level to, in my view, gradually through a process of development and training to take on more and more responsibility vis a vis the delivery of housing programs. I see housing federation as being, if there is a continued emphasis on programs such as the public housing program, I see a definite need for a good strong functioning federation to look at collective issues and concerns relating to the administration and delivery of those programs and provide and offer solutions to address needs particular to this area.

So I do not know if I have totally addressed your question but if you look at a continuation of the kinds of programs we have right now, I see a lot of work required to develop housing associations at a level where they have the skill and the expertise to administer and deliver programs. I see organizations such as federations as being a mechanism to facilitate that kind of growth and to provide some uniformity and to collectively address the issues. I see the Housing Corporation, certainly my office, as being in a role to facilitate that kind of development and that kind of growth as well as administer those kinds of policies and programs as the board or the Legislative Assembly or the government as a whole may establish.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Well, you did not exactly answer it but it is very good, I have had years of this, but to maybe ask you now, what you have said, it is good, it is motherhood, you would like to see it strengthened. Do you think right now that the region and/or headquarters is doing enough to accomplish those very good ends that you would like to see? If not, what would you like to see improved in order to give the board the proper training they want and that they need? How would you improve it?

MR. HERB HUNT: Okay, I guess when I took on this role of district manager I established some priorities and my priorities have been in the area of identifying those programs that are required to address the future housing needs and we are looking at the promotion of homeownership programs. The second priority is identify a major deficiency in terms of long range planning to address the housing needs. We did not even have a record of our inventory, so that was a priority to get into place, a record of our inventory, and to lay out some plans for the future provision and addressing of the housing needs through capital. Thirdly, there has been no maintenance program taking place and they is certainly a need to upgrade our various maintenance programs. We have to maintain that houses that we have built. So those I saw as the main concerns, the main issues, and my time and effort has been put toward addressing those areas.

My problem has been that I do not have the resources. I do not have enough staff to be able to do all of those nice things that I would like to see done. We have to develop housing associations, but I need staff, resources and money to do so. I do not have a budget that will allow me to bring the chairmen of housing associations together to have a federation meeting. My budget for that this year is \$30,000. That is enough money to get about half the chairmen of the federations together for a meeting. We have enough money in the budget to cover what I would call about one third of the maintenance that is required in this district under existing programs. So, Mr. Chairman, although it is my philosophy, my feeling, that those things are critical, that they are required, right at the present time we are just not able to do so. I do not have the resources myself to be able to do those things that have been identified, and I take it, by this committee, as the kinds of programs that are necessary to address the issues and concerns in this area. In maintenance alone I need about a 60 per cent increase in budget in order to provide an acceptable level of maintenance and operation of the current housing stock. What is happening is that the housing stock is increasing so the proportion of funding per unit is decreasing. I am not getting an increase in the operation budget.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you very much, Mr. Hunt. Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions to ask Mr. Hunt. In the last two years that you have been district manager, how often do you travel into some of these communities? I realize there are a lot of communities to cover but how many of these communities have you been to?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I have been to every community at least once a year and to many communities, I have been in and out several times over the past two years, every community with one exception. I am sorry, that is not an exception either. I was going to put Sanikiluaq down as an exception, but I have been in Sanikiluaq three times in the past two years and that is the least community that I have been in. Now I may stand to be corrected on a community.

MRS. LAWRENCE: You have been to Pangnirtung as well?

MR. HERB HUNT: I have been to Pangnirtung in the past two years at least six times.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Okay, my second question is, you mentioned development and training, so you did provide development and training for people that have requested it in some communities?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, the work that we have done on development and training over the past two years has been negligible. There has hardly been any work done in that area at all.

MRS. LAWRENCE: So there is not too much concentration on development and training at the community level then, is that correct?

MR. HERB HUNT: Perhaps I could continue. I am talking about development and training in the broader sense of a concerted development program to elevate the level of performance of housing associations as a whole. There has been work done. Last year I had a staff of two program officers and this year I have three plus a training officer. The major work of the program officers over the past two years has been going into housing associations, working with the secretary manager and in most cases, there are some exceptions, doing the bookwork and accounting for secretary managers, correcting errors and problems that have taken place. In some cases they have gone into a community and there has been no record of bookkeeping or accounting done for the past three month period since the last visit, so that has consumed the entire time of the program officer. That emphasis has changed. I have instructed the program staff that their responsibility

is to deliver programs and to work with housing associations, both board and staff, in the delivery of programs. That responsibility for the administration has to be assumed by the secretary manager, and if the secretary manager lacks the skill then we have to work with the board either to find a competent individual or somehow to, through the various programs that are offered or the various institutions, provide that individual with the training and skills necessary to manage the affairs of the association.

MRS. LAWRENCE: You answered most of my questions. I guess what I was thinking of was more in line with maintenance but I realize you were working closely on the training and administration side of it.

MR. HERB HUNT: Right. Mr. Chairman, there has been progress and work in that area. On the maintenance side for example I have done a lot of work with education. They had closed down the oil burner mechanic program which was the only program for delivery of the housing maintenance servicemen courses for housing association employees here. My involvement with education has resulted in that program being put back on stream with a full-time instructor hired for Frobisher, so progress has been made in that area. I have also recently made a submission for use of capital money for major maintenance work, to put into place a travelling maintenance crew and again the Department of Education has assisted greatly in that area by approving four apprenticeship positions so we can train qualified journeymen employees either to take positions within the corporation on completion of training which would qualify them for jobs with housing associations. And these are the kinds of major things that have to take place. The Housing Corporation has been operating for the past 10 years. We have not had an apprenticeship program in place in that period of time to train qualified people to maintain the houses that are being provided. There are a number of reasons for that, but the main reason is that the funding which would allow those things to take place has not been provided. We have always been behind the eight ball of trying to do a job without the resources or funding to do it.

MR. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments you had on home-ownership for meeting the future needs of housing, I find them inconsistent with what I have heard from quite high level officers of the corporation in Yellowknife who have been very frank in saying that the home-ownership program is something they would just as soon not have mentioned in the East because they did not feel that it fitted into the Eastern Arctic very well. Personally I disagree with them. You mentioned the success or certainly the potential for success in the staff housing program with home-ownership and the incentives were attractive enough now for staff to consider this. You also mentioned that there can be a fuel subsidy -- I think they were your words. I am not aware of that one and I would like you to elaborate on that when you reply. The electricity subsidy I am quite aware of.

The subsidy, the one I imagine when you say it is attractive for staff to consider home-ownership, is the housing allowance, which I believe is \$450 a month. In many instances where staff do take advantage of these programs it is in fact a double subsidy, where both husband and wife are employed by the same or different agencies of government and it in fact becomes a \$900 housing subsidy per month. I am asking you not as a corporation man now but a personal opinion, is that the kinds of subsidies we are looking at when you say that it is feasible to do over here? Is it in fact a \$900 a month subsidy to the home-owner plus subsidization in utilities, both electrical and fuel? I submit that if that is what we are looking at, then costwise it would be very much in line with the current program.

I don't disagree with this when I say I submit to you that the cost is not much different because I do agree with one statement you made earlier that the corporation has been put in the position of being a social agency and not a provider of housing. I believe that today probably the corporation is the largest single social assistance agency in the NWT through its subsidy on fuel and electricity, but is that the kind of subsidies that you foresee would be necessary to have a viable home-ownership market where it would provide the incentive for private enterprise to invest in home-ownership as you suggested and create a housing industry and fill the need for future housing in the district?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Hunt.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Pedersen. Perhaps I should start by disagreeing with one statement that you made and that is, a subsidy of some \$900 in terms of ongoing operating costs is comparable to what the corporation is now paying for public housing. Nine hundred dollars is considerably lower than the subsidies under the current program.

Right now there is a two tier program for home-ownership. One program geared to staff of government which provides an ongoing -- what normally would fall in a category of O and M subsidy that ranges from \$450 or \$750 to \$900 a month. Then we have programs that are administered by the Housing Corporation that provides a one-time capital subsidy. In other words you provide a housing package or you provide a northern rent to house at a nominal fee. So there are inconsistencies in the delivery of government programs.

I would think that subsidies for electricity, subsidies in the area of POI and capital subsidies need not be at that magnitude. I personally think, and here perhaps I am somewhat in contradiction with my employer, that the capital costs of constructing a house in this area has been inflated over the years because of the total concentration of government and the sometimes inefficiencies within government in running major construction programs. I think the individual and we have three such experiences sitting right here, three individuals who do feel and are committed to the notion that home-ownership is better, have proven that it is more efficient for the three of us who have built homes in Frobisher, have built homes considerably below government prices, whether they be DPW or the Housing Corporation. So there are also efficiencies in terms of operation of units, our costs for electricity, fuel and for maintenance is nowhere comparable to the cost of those services through houses that are subsidized by government.

I received information that a utility cost in a house that is recently rehabed, the fuel cost is \$26,000 a year for one unit. I don't know why that is, but the inefficiency built in there through the program the consumer waste, if you will, is not seen from those people who have to pay the bills themselves. So I don't see that the magnitude of subsidies that you are talking about are required but I do see that there are subsidies that are required and there are programs that are required that would make the individual, the tenant responsible for some aspect of provision of shelter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would like to ask a question also. As you mentioned earlier there are three of you who built your own homes. If a person is not a government employee or if you are partly employed would the house that you own -- do you think you would be able to live even if you are not working or would it cost too much to own your own home if you are unemployed?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, if I were unemployed I would not be able to afford the house that I live in, therefore, I would assume that I would qualify for a subsidized low rental public housing program. If I were unemployed tomorrow, as a result of this discussion here -- I might lose my job -- I would think that I would be able to make a deal with the Department of Social Services that would allow me to maintain my home until such time as I was able to seek employment elsewhere. But to answer your question, I would never have undertaken to build a house in the way that I went about it, as an unemployed individual. But I am quite confident that given the kinds of housing programs that the corporation is offering in terms of the provision of a material package, I would apply for that kind of package, I would build a house myself and I would enter into an agreement with Social Services if necessary, if I didn't have the money to maintain that house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any questions? Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Hunt, you indicated you have sold 40 rental units. Are those units primarily in Frobisher Bay and if not, where and to whom have you sold them? To government employees or to non-government employees?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, most of those houses that have been sold under that program have been sold in Frobisher Bay. A large number of purchasers were government employees or people employed with other agencies who perhaps shouldn't have been in those houses in the first place.

There have been houses sold in various communities but the number of houses per community have been much fewer. The promotion of that program by our office has really just taken off within the past year particularly in the past months -- I believe there was one sold in Resolute Bay, some sold in Igloodik -- I don't have a complete list but what I could do is have a list drawn up for you.

MR. McCALLUM: I would appreciate getting a list of that and whether in fact you have a further inventory of those units that would be available to people other than government employees, because obviously they should be available to people who have lived in them for some time. There is an arrangement, I think, whereby the amount of money they have paid for rent over a period of time can be deducted from the sale price.

I just want to pursue a further comment, I think that you made, and if I'm reading it wrong or I took it down wrong, you can correct me. You are suggesting that there is an adequate number of social housing units now and as such, you would not increase that inventory -- that there should be enough units to look after the criteria that you have, you suggested as well that there should be a new look, if you like, an eligibility to live in those units that as you suggested restricting eligibility. Where then do other people live, government employees for example, where would they go? Because I would expect that, not only in Frobisher but in a lot of other communities, because that's what we heard in other communities that there are a number of people who are government employees living in these so called rental units, social housing. I am interested in what you are saying as to retaining the number of units if they are properly maintained, at the present time that is not increasing the inventory and trying to get into other programs such as the home-assistance program, the rural remote -- I think its something I'd like to get some idea from you, what you feel about the government providing for example, low cost second mortgages or even first mortgages. Granted that's a lot in one plight, but if you could comment on those.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, the entire presentation has to be taken into context and that is, you cannot do one without the other, in other words, you cannot restrict. There is a need for housing, there's no question. There is a need for more housing, need for better housing, need for improvement of the housing stock and there's a need to maintain and upkeep the housing stock. Those are all problems we are struggling with on a day to day basis.

The solution that I suggested is just that. You do restrict. There is an adequate stock of public housing units if you put into place a criteria for allocation of public housing on basis of need and a basis of income and lower income. What is now needed are those programs that would allow the people who can afford it or can contribute toward the cost of provision of shelter, programs that would assist those people to provide their own need for housing through assistance. In other words, provide the responsibility on the individual but in addition to the responsibility provide the individual with a way, for and means for providing shelter, I think programs that will allow easy access to mortgages, whether subsidized first mortgages or subsidized second mortgages, the home-ownership packages that we offer, the rural and remote packages that are offered and I understand there are some problems with it. It is a new program here but I can't identify what those problems are, apparently they are not as cost effective as they appear to be so there would have to be some things worked out there. It is through the delivery of those kinds of programs that would allow for a restriction of eligibility or a more stringent criteria for eligibility into public housing.

I find it somewhat remarkable that the level of interest of home-ownership from the younger people -- perhaps it has come about in two ways. There is a shortage of housing so they perceive home-ownership as a way of relieving, as addressing their need for housing. But I do find that it is somewhat remarkable that in light of subsidized program where an average rent for one of our houses is \$98 a month, that someone would even consider looking at home-ownership, but yet the interest is there. The interest has been expressed.

So, yes, programs such as mortgage assistance programs, programs that would allow for a reduction in cost to the prospective home-owner would allow those programs to take off and would allow the corporation and communities to get into a process of providing a low-rental public housing to people who really need it the worst.

In terms of the northern rent to houses, there is a diminishing inventory of northern rent to houses that are available for sale. One of things that we are undertaking to do right now, is to identify that housing stock, identify clients through community consultations, to discussions with the individuals through discussions with the housing associations which tenants, particularly long-term tenants who have lived in those houses, are interested in buying those houses. That's the first criteria, second criteria is, what is required to make those houses more attractive for sale. At the present time we are investing some \$80,000 to rehab those units, which roughly \$20,000 is appropriations from the territorial government. Is there a way to upgrade those houses for up to \$20,000 that would make it attractive for the individual to buy the unit? Those are the kinds of things that have to be looked into but again and I wish I had the data and the information right here to present to you on all of these things but unfortunately I do not have the resources to be able to have all of those answers readily available within the short timeframe that I've had to try to address those problems.

MR. McCALLUM: Could you indicate to me, what's a ballpark average price that you've sold those rental units for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt.

MR. HERB HUNT: Okay. This is a very rough answer. I would venture to guess that the maximum price for a northern rental house that has had no capital investment in in recent years to be a maximum of about \$3000. I would say the average price is probably the minimum price of \$1000. There's been a program change that set the minimum price at \$1000 but yes, some did go as low as \$1.00. I think the highest northern rental price we have received is in the neighbourhood of \$40,000, but that was a northern rental house that received significant amount of capital investment. It was a recovering of that capital investment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to inform you that if you have a question or comment answered, please speak into your microphone so we can record them into the minutes. Any further questions? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the committee could have from the district office what it costs to maintain a rental unit in all the communities in the Baffin. What the actual costs are to the government, to the Housing Corporation, of maintaining rental housing. I wonder if the district office could, maybe not right here, but in some point in time, have a breakdown of those costs, I think we might have a better chance to address the funding issue if we knew the actual costs today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I do have those figures here with me and perhaps it might be of interest to just quickly have a look at some summary figures. This information I am providing you is strictly on the maintenance side, it does not deal with operations or utility costs, although I have that information here as well.

In 1983, actual expenditures for maintenance for a public house was \$1248. That included salary, materials and freight. The Department of Public Works spent \$4565 for every staff house. So there is a considerable difference there. Just a little bit of other summary information is that on staff housing, DPW had one tradesperson for every 13 houses for maintenance, mostly journeymen. The Housing Corporation had one tradesperson for every 30 houses and they are mostly unskilled. DPW had one supervisory technical person for every 152 houses. The Housing Corporation had one technical supervisory person for all 1196 units. DPW paid an average salary of \$40,550 while the housing associations paid an average salary of \$25,461. I will produce copies of that for you.

One more item in terms of total cost, there is going to be some discrepancies because I am providing you now budget figures for this year which is based upon a stark cost, of course. The amortization of capital totals \$421 per unit, the operating budget per unit is \$719. The total operating cost is \$1240, our rental revenue per unit is \$98 which provides a total subsidy based on a current funding levels of \$1142 per unit. These are monthly figures. These are budget information that shows you this, I guess, if you will, a disparity as well as the costs. Everytime I look at those figures I find it staggering and often reflect on how the government can continue given those costs continue in terms of real dollars and afford programs such as the public housing program. In order to maintain the houses properly, just in terms of maintenance, I would need, just to be comparable with the maintenance staff housing by DPW, I would need an increase in our maintenance budget from \$900,000 to \$5.5 million.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Hunt could make all those figures available to all members of the committee so we can study them and make recommendations based on some of those figures.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt.

MR. HERB HUNT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'll make some comments other than what is being discussed. From the hearings in the communities we gather there were a lot of communities who were concerned about the Housing Corporation's public housing, that when they move into the houses just look like a floor, just a shelter, and most of the public housing does not have any furniture such as dryers and bathtubs, tables and beds. They were wondering why it cost so much money if the unit has no furniture. So you made some good presentations when you started. I am wondering if that situation could be corrected in the future or are we going to be facing the same problem? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, it is a corporation policy not to provide furniture and furnishings for public housing. I realize this is a concern, but one of my jobs is to administer corporation policy, not to establish them. So I really have no answers to that question, but if I may interject a personal comment, for four or five years I was involved in the administration and management of staff housing for the government. I would just hate to get into a program where I would have to administer the provision of furnishings under the public housing program. I think if this committee were to consider such a move I think it should be considered in the context of some kind of financial assistance, perhaps through the Department of Social Services if necessary, rather than through upgrading the current program to include the provision of furniture. Because I can assure you that both the Housing Corporation and housing associations would find it an administrative nightmare to try to administer a program for provision of furniture for housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Just to make a supplementary comment, the staff housing, the people who work for the government in communities have a greater concern compared to the public and the government employees from down South are moved into staff housing and they have furniture already there waiting for them. There are some tables, sofas, and in the communities the government employees are situated in a unit where there is no furniture and I think that was the major concern from the government employees. The concern also included that there is a shortage of staff housing.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I was not quite clear from the hearings, but here in Frobisher in Happy Valley they received some units in 1977 and at that time they had sinks and dryers available to them when they moved into those units and I want to know if the problem is that there is no more furniture available. We all know that there is no furniture available in Frobisher Bay and is it the same throughout all the communities in Baffin Region or are there differences in supplying furniture?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of any program that allows for the provision of furniture as part of any of the corporation's housing programs. I am not aware of the situation that was referred to in 1977. I can speculate that I think a few years ago the government had a sale to dispose of old and worn out furniture at a public auction and people within the community purchased a lot of that furniture at a nominal price. I recognize the problem. I realize there is a problem that the availability of furnishings for purchase within the local community is not there. There is through The Bay store and through other retailers, a larger inventory of furniture that people can buy. It is problem, there is no question, but I do not have any suggestions as to a solution to that problem. Perhaps some policy of working closer with the retailers who stock an inventory of furniture might resolve the problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Selete.

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Hunt, we do not have very much time here but I found what you said about the inefficiency of the corporation really interesting earlier when you were saying that you were one of the people that built his own home at a lower cost. I guess just for the record I would like to hear how the corporation is inefficient and how can it lower its costs? How can it become more efficient?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I have to show some party loyalty here. I did not say that the Housing Corporation per se was inefficient, I said government as a whole is inefficient in terms of its delivery of those kinds of things, in terms of bringing the cost down. I think it is generally accepted knowledge if we do a comparative analysis. Number one, I was able to keep the cost down on my house by doing my own labour. I built the house myself. There is a large component that government has to pay for construction. Number two, I avoided the cost of architectural and engineering, there was no support staff that was necessary to do the drawings. I had an alternative, of course, of buying a package to incorporate that kind of cost but I did not, I was able to avoid it. So there was a way of saving money. Number three, I did not have to accept the lowest tender on various packages. I was able to shop around, I was able to go out and negotiate for deals. There was not a straightforward offering of a job and to take the lowest price to get that job done. I offered a job. If I was not happy with the lowest price, I went to various different people and I negotiated. I got the price down in that way.

So these are some examples of areas where there was a considerable cost savings. I will tell you that my cost of providing my house was in the neighborhood of 40 percent to 50 percent of the cost of government providing a comparable home.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a short comment and then a question. I guess the people have a hard time understanding why they have to go on this federal rent scale of 25 per cent when their house, if not maintained to the standard of the federal or the government employees where they have running water and the appliances provided -- it is hard for them to understand, it is even hard for me to understand that as well. I am familiar with that in my constituency. My question is that when you visited in a community such as Pangnirtung, did you have a chance to visit any of the huts?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I have visited most of the houses in this district. I have seen a very large percentage of the 1196 houses. I have visited family and friends and I certainly have a lot of empathy for people who are living in some of the old houses with some of the problems. There is no question that there is a need to upgrade the quality of houses. We have some 250 houses that the ceilings cave in every year. They have to be corrected. We have those same houses where sewage tanks are freezing up. Those problems have to be corrected. It is nothing that money cannot solve and the solutions of working with housing associations -- I can tell you the same frustrations you are getting from housing associations you are probably getting from me right here right now.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I do not think you heard my question. I asked if you visited the huts right by the shore? I am not talking about the houses that have all these problems. We are aware of that. My question is, have you had a chance to go into one of these huts?

MR. HERB HUNT: Oh, sorry, I apologize. I did not go into the huts. I saw the huts. I saw the problems that are associated in terms of the lifestyle of the people living there. I can tell you that I devoted a lot of time and effort to try and increase the number of houses going into Pangnirtung just to meet that need.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Just one more comment. We only went into Pangnirtung once and we made the best of that visit by visiting the huts and it was very interesting. They have not blown away like the houses and garages built by the corporation have blown away. Those huts were intact and were very interesting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Perhaps I should ask this of Personnel rather than Housing. Has the government sold any staff housing to government employees and at what price? A ballpark figure again.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Tom Demcheson.

MR. TOM DEMCHESON: Mr. Chairman, this region does not at the present time have a policy to sell staff houses but there is a proposal being considered at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Arnold?

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Hunt, have you or the district had any requests to build senior citizen homes for Social Services? Have there been any requests from any of the communities to build senior citizen homes?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, no there has been no specific requests for accommodation under that program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further questions? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Hunt we appreciate your candor and we realize you are in a tough situation because you do not make the policies. But our feeling was that it is very important to talk to the regional offices because of your proximity to the problems. Now I wonder if you have any ideas besides the obvious ones of getting more money and more personnel resources of what powers and responsibilities should devolve to the regional offices and/or the housing federations and associations to improve delivery of the programs?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I have lived and worked in this region for pretty well all of my adult life and I think it is clearly understood that my philosophy is that a total decentralization of the delivery of any program, including housing programs, is the only answer to allow the decision making and the offering of solutions at a level that can be reached by the communities. I would say with the corporation that it is, by and large, a highly centralized organization with all of the decision making, particularly in our major program delivery, which is a capital construction, is currently centralized to a degree that a portion of the district staff reports directly to an officer in headquarters by passing myself.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Paniloo?

MR. PANILOO: In regard to the subject I am going to ask a different question which has not been discussed. As MLAs we will have to approve the budget which the Housing Corporation will be using within the Territories. When the communities request budgets for their communities, when the housing associations are preparing their budgets, what system do you use? Does the regional association just handle the budget for the communities' use? I have to understand that before we can approve the budget for the regional offices.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, up until this year the entire budget for the operation of districts was the responsibility of headquarters. This year it was decentralized to the regions and this is the first time a manager of this office has some responsibility and control over budget. The process for budget allocation is, as I understand it, for all departments of government including the corporation, is established by the Legislature, the Executive Committee. A base level is provided and that base level is allocated to the various programs. I have received a target allocation for my responsibilities here. I in turn, provide each housing association with their target allocation based upon that portion of the budget that has been assigned to me for the overall management of housing. This being the first year that we took on that responsibility, I did run into some staff problems which resulted in, instead of a budget being allocated in February which was the target date that I had established, I had to do that budget target allocation myself on March 31st and allocated accordingly.

So there were some problems this year. There will be problems in coming years because the only way we are going to address the problem is if the base level funding is changed. At the present time those figures that I provided you, for example, in maintenance, \$904,000, is our base level funding for maintaining 1109 houses. I am claiming that to do an adequate or comparable job

that is being done with staff housing, I need \$5.5 million. But until that base is provided to me there is nothing I can do in terms of my involvement with housing associations to assist them in base level changes.

Perhaps just as a general comment which is quite interesting, I had a phonecall yesterday from the secretary manager in Arctic Bay and he said that he has not received a man year increase for maintenance since 1974. They had two people working then, they have two people working now, and he is quite concerned. If something happens to that house and the house burns down or there is an accident inside because of lack of maintenance, he feels that he is liable. The only thing I could say to that individual was that we share the same concerns. It is a problem that both he as secretary manager and I as district manager have to cope with because there is no funding within the overall budget for the corporation that would allow that association to increase its man-year requirement in order to do an adequate maintenance job.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Pauloosie?

MR. PANILGO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just going to make my question clear. The funding that is going to be allocated to Clyde River, is the decision made here in Frobisher, or do you consult the community housing association?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, my intent this year was to take the target figure that was provided to me and do a tentative allocation of that target for each association. It was my intention to take those figures to the federation meeting on February 23 to 29, 1984. Unfortunately, as I mentioned to you, I ran into some personnel problems. The budget was not prepared and it was not completed until I did it myself on March 31, 1984. There has been consultation with communities. There have been discussions with communities, but the solutions have not arisen from that discussion or that consultation in most cases. What I am stressing to you is that the solutions are not there because the funding base is not there to offer solutions. We have corrected some minor inequities, if you will, in budget allocation. There was one community in particular that when we had a discussion with the chairman, the vice-chairman and the secretary manager, it was clearly identified as there was not a proportional allocation of funding to that community. We identified the problem there. We identified the cause of that problem and it was corrected. In other words, there was one community we felt that was overallocation within the confines of the targets that we had by some \$23,000 which affected this other community of being underbudget by \$23,000, so we made the change as a result of discussions and consultations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Dennis?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one question I would really like to ask Mr. Hunt for this committee and that is, you seem to be -- well you are -- suffering from a lack of resources and you have observed that the territorial government in this region has significantly better resources than the Housing Corporation to look after its own staff houses. Could you outline briefly whether you see any advantages in the Housing Corporation becoming a department within the government rather than a separate organization that has to have its own finance capability in the region, its own tradespeople and perhaps has to ask for cooperation from government departments from the outside. Would there be any advantages at the regional level in having the corporation within the government in your viewpoint?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Hunt?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, I can certainly list off some advantages. When I took on the position of district manager I found that the relationship between the district offices of the corporation and the various other departments of government was nonexistent. I endeavoured to change that through a close working relationship with the various superintendents and with the Executive, and I think we have brought about a good working relationship in which we talk, we consult, we exchange information. One of the advantages of being a department of government is that that exercise would not be at the discretion of the manager but would be a requirement, and there is a definite requirement for a working relationship. The delivery of housing programs requires land. Land is administered through Local Government. Involvement with Local Government on a day to day basis is essential. Municipal services are affected by changes in the delivery of housing. Municipal services is through the Department of Local Government and through hamlet councils, so there needs to be a close working relationship there. Technical resources are

available within the Department of Public Works. The utilization of those resources at the present time depends upon goodwill. As a department of government it would be an obligation. There are many such examples that require a close working relationship.

One of the things that I tried to establish as district manager was to put into place a long range, five-year capital plan so that everyone is aware of programs that are planned by the corporation so that they in turn can react accordingly -- Local Government in terms of land and municipal services and the capital money that is involved there, Government Services in terms of the provision of PUL services and so on and so forth. Mr. Chairman, I am very disappointed in my efforts in that area. I have received very little reaction through my consultation and discussions at federation meetings and with housing associations. After two years effort there is still no capital plan and I think that as a department of government that process would be facilitated in that the regional director would insist upon an immediate capital plan. So those are some advantages in the Housing Corporation becoming a department of government, and in my view, would facilitate perhaps a better decentralization in terms of the delivery of programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to get a solution from this committee for planning this morning. We are planning to tour the NWTHC with Mr. Hunt and if we are going to do that I think we have to break pretty soon. Or we can have that tour tomorrow afternoon before Cape Dorset. We have a very heavy schedule this afternoon. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUROUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps it would be better if I spoke English. (End of translation). I will get up to what you said in a minute after I ask a question if you do not mind.

We are trying to improve the housing problem all across the Northwest Territories and this committee is supposed to be here to hear the problems and to get questions and answers. Well, looking at the whole thing, home-ownership, furniture and rental problems, the government staff and all these things, I am going to form it in one question. This is directed to the district manager. There is talk about home-owners and also there is talk about home-owners in my area in the West. There are a lot of people who are happy about this but to me, I do not think this is going to really improve the housing problem due to many other problems. While the northern rental houses do not have any furniture and the government staff houses have furniture, it is a different story if you live in two different type of houses.

I used to live in a government house and now I am living in a northern rental house. With everything in that government house, furniture and everything else, I was paying less for that house. Now I live in a northern rental house with nothing in it and I have to purchase everything for myself to furnish the house, I pay more. And when I was working for the government I was making more money. Now I am living in a northern rental, still attached to the government but I am not making as much as when I was in the government staff house. I am quite afraid when they mention about home-owners due to many problems. There are ordinary people who need houses who are working full time but sometimes they do not have the benefits as higher people do. My question is, I would like to know who can really help these home-owners with the problem of the housing shortage?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Before you answer that question I just want to make a correction. You are not part of the West anymore. I think you call it Kitikmeot. Correct me if I am wrong.

MR. ANGOTTITAUROUQ: Well, that is correct. I was just putting the Territories back together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Hunt?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, one of the things I tried to do when I was personnel manager was to change that policy on furniture and to make it the responsibility of the individual to provide his own furniture. I think if that had been done using your situation, if you had bought furniture when you were in staff housing rather than have furniture provided, you would not be in the problem that you are in right now in a level of lower income. As to who would benefit from programs of home-ownership, I think it would be a collective benefit, a benefit by the individual, in that the individual has the flexibility of providing shelter to meet his needs rather than somebody else's perception of his need for shelter. I think the government as a whole will be the beneficiary in that the resources that it directs right now into highly subsidized public housing would go into home-ownership housing which would, in turn, be an economic stimulus. I would suggest that through

the home-ownership programs more of the capital money invested in housing would remain within that community in terms of labour, in terms of work, in terms of jobs, in terms of services and businesses that would be generated to meet the demands for furnishings or maintenance or what have you.

I think it would be a general economic stimulus to the community that everybody within the community would benefit from. It would reduce cost of utilities and services and which money could be directed into the delivery of other programs. \$26,000 is the cost of operating units. I am not sure if this is both fuel and utility costs. I would think that at that price it would have to be or something is terribly wrong. But it ranges from \$13,800 up to \$17,740 to operate and maintain a house. Now that is money that government is paying for fuel and electricity. The homeowner, I am confident, would pay nowhere near that amount of money for those services. So there you can provide the assistance for a lower cost of service, thereby saving a lot of money which could be rechannelled into other programs, so I think everybody stands to gain.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make this short. Getting back to the local board of trustees, who decides to have a board of trustees and how do they appoint these people on the board?

MR. HERB HUNT: I believe the question you are referring to is the situation in Frobisher Bay?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Yes, I am referring to the local board of trustees here in Frobisher Bay.

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, we did a management audit of the operation in Frobisher Bay. We found that there was very little representation of the community on the make up of the board, in fact, employees of the association were called in to make some decisions as to the election of the board. There were some management problems, a lot of the problems that have already been identified like allocations, so on so forth. It was my decision to terminate the management agreement with the housing association. Obviously I had communicated that decision to my superiors and obtained support for it before I acted. It was my recommendation that a board of trustees be put into place to allow an opportunity for the development of a model for the management of housing in this community to reflect the needs of this community.

There was a request by the mayor for the municipality to take over the direct administration and delivery of municipal services. So accordingly the mayor and the secretary manager were appointed to serve on that board to give them an opportunity first hand to see what all is involved in the management of housing, and after they see that, to see whether they still want to take on that responsibility. We appointed a director from Social Services. Since we are involved in the running of a social housing program the director of Social Services was asked to sit on the board. I guess I recommended myself as chairman for that board and the assistant district manager is sitting on the board, as well as two tenants. So all of the recommendations in terms of the formation of the board of trustees and who were selected to sit on that board were recommendations that were made by myself for that purpose.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Okay, just one short question. By recommending yourself as the chairman do you not feel that there is a conflict with the job that you are doing as district manager?

MR. HERB HUNT: Mr. Chairman, no.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I think the time is running out now if you want to have a tour. To the solution. Is there agreement from the committee because nobody told me there would be a presentation from a government officer. Is this house agreed? Proceed.

MR. KEN MacRURY: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the GNWT regional offices I would like to make a short statement for your records, basically to advise you as to where we stand on the topic of housing in this region. Basically we are working closely with the Housing Corporation to encourage the development of a private home-ownership market in this region. Our principal efforts have been

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an agreement so that the town will have control of land disposal. We are requesting the town to make lots available on a priority basis to people who wish to build private residences, and we are encouraging the town to allow private builders to lease or purchase serviced or unserviced lots depending on their choice.

So those are some of the things we are talking to the town about. One thing that we have done is we have written a letter to the Commissioner requesting an Executive Committee decision on the sale of G&M housing in Frobisher Bay and we would appreciate a positive response to that request. We believe that private home-ownership is a viable option in Frobisher Bay particularly, but also in the settlements. You said that you had not heard too much about it in the settlements. I know that that is probably true. I think that quite a number of our staff that are long-term residents in a particular community are interested in purchasing government units or northern rental units and turning them into private accommodation. Some of them are also looking at the possibility of building in the settlements, but principally the activity is taking place in Frobisher Bay. That is all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Does anybody have a question? Mr. Tom Demcheson.

MR. TOM DEMCHESON: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to give a handout of information for the committee members. Basically it is information on the occupancy of housing that is owned by G&M, some statistics on government staff and housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. I think that will be valuable. Any questions? Okay, I would like to thank Mr. Herb Hunt, Mr. Tom Demcheson and Mr. Ken MacRury. In the early 1970s we used to go down to Frobisher, Tom and I and Herb Hunt, and we used to have a meeting and this is really a different meeting today. Thanks very much for your presentations and your comments and questions. Are we going to have a tour? Before we go on I would like to ask this committee, the Mayor of Frobisher Bay would like to meet with us. It is either going to be 1:00 o'clock or 3:30. It is only going to take a half an hour. Penny, to the microphone please.

MS PENNY ALMOND: We can be back in this room at 1:00 o'clock and if we are going to meet at 3:30 then it involves pushing the late afternoon appointments forward, so you are not going to gain any time either way. You are going to lose a half an hour. You just have to decide if you want to lose it between 1:00 and 1:30 or from 4:00 to 4:30. So take that into consideration.

MR. McCALLUM: Penny, he wants to meet us alone. He is not meeting with the town council.

#### MEETING WITH THE MAYOR OF FROBISHER BAY

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): This afternoon we have the mayor of Frobisher Bay who is going to give us a presentation. We do not have very much time left. Could you start now Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. It is nice to see you in Frobisher and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you all here on behalf of the community. I just arrived back from a long trip so I do not have anything prepared but I have some ideas that I just thought I would throw at you. You may have heard them before and perhaps you concur with some of my views on housing in the North. I just thought I would take the opportunity to meet with you and express them and hopefully we can get housing in a better shape than it is today.

I would like to start my remarks by saying that I believe the improvements in housing in the past 10 years are far greater than anybody ever imagined and I personally am always amazed at the progress that has been made in the past 10 or 12 years. As you may be aware I first proposed to the territorial government, to my colleagues on Council in 1970-71, that there be a task force on housing and it is nice to see after 12 or 14 years that there is now a task force on housing. My colleagues at the time agreed but the Commissioner, in all his wisdom, rather than establish a task force, in fact, established a committee which founded the Housing Corporation. Tom Butters was the head of that thing. I thought it never really examined the housing problems at the time, however, be that as it may, the Housing Corporation I believe has accomplished an incredible amount of work, has brought marvellous improvements to the standard of living in the Northwest Territories. It may be true to say that in some areas of the Northwest Territories they have benefited more than in others, and I suppose that that is the luck of the people and the representatives that they elected to represent them.

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However, my own area, the Eastern Arctic I think has made incredible strides with the production and the development of housing, and each of the directors of the Housing Corporation, I think, deserve a vote of thanks and I have expressed this to them a couple of years ago in May River. Roy McLure, who accomplished a terrific amount of work at the time in wresting the reins away from Stu Hodgson and John Parker and that administrative group who were very reluctant to relinquish this very important area of housing. Roy McLure accomplished that and established the corporation. Sig Dietz built a substantial infrastructure and in his way, further enhanced the corporation and began to provide some good leadership and direction to the regions and of course the establishment of the regional organizations. Following him we had George Forrest who, in his way, made a substantial contribution and designed some new ideas and concepts in housing. And of course we are in the midst of the Vic Irving reign. Now how long that will last I do not know, but Vic has also accomplished a terrific amount of work.

The improvements in housing and the provision of housing, as I say, have been enormous. However, throughout all these years there has been one overriding problem. There is a breakdown in the system. The system works very well in Yellowknife and very well in the regions to a degree, but in the communities it does not work and it has never worked because the problem has never really been addressed properly by the housing people. They inherited the system from the federal government who, many years ago, themselves unable to provide adequate housing, unable to provide good management in the settlements, turned it over to the people and said "Oh well, we will be democratic about this, we will give you the responsibility." And of course the people to whom they gave the responsibility were hardly equipped to handle such responsibilities because in many of the communities there is nepotism and there are all kinds of other strange arrangements made between chairmen of housing associations and their relatives. All kinds of corrupt practices have been going on for many years and I suppose to some degree these still exist.

So the Housing Corporation have had this continuous uphill battle with trying to get the infrastructure in order in the communities. I think the responsibility of your committee would be to examine in very close detail the type of management of the housing within the communities because that is where I see the real problem that has never been resolved. It still exists, as I am sure many of you are aware, because of the approach that the Canadian government has had to northern development -- this fragmentation that has taken place in the communities. I am sure that you could find existing in Frobisher Bay today some 35 or 40 separate organizations, institutions, committees, groups, all doing their own thing. I am sure if you were to ask anybody in Frobisher Bay today what they felt would be the most important organization in this community, they would probably say the housing association, the Anglican Church group and somewhere on the list there maybe the municipal council, maybe. What has occurred, I believe, is the fragmentation of the communities.

There are only so many people in any community that are willing to get up and go out and work and do things for the community and yet when you have the vast number of organizations within these communities you are scraping the bottom of the barrel in trying to find people to serve on all these committees and to take on all these responsibilities.

It is my view, and has been for some time, that the municipal councils are the areas that should be given more responsibility and that a concerted effort be made to give them the responsibility of running the community, not just the dogs and the dump, but the housing, social services and all of the other important institutions within a community. That should come under the auspices of the community council. Committees of that body then establish to take on the management of the various elements within the community. I think if that kind of approach was taken then a lot of these communities would benefit from that. I think that is basically all that I have to say. Perhaps the Members have some questions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: Bryan, I think that that is an interesting concept. I know that it is one that you have had as you said for some time. There has been a devolution of social services here by the territorial government but I guess my question really is, how do you reconcile your concept of the communities taking it over to the concept that BRC for example puts forth, that they would like to have BRC in Frobisher being a part of BRC? How do you reconcile those two?

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: That is something new, I have not heard that before. You are saying that BRC is interested in taking on the housing responsibility?



MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, in response to Mr. Ballantyne, I think that we are already doing that in Frobisher. The management agreement was cancelled and another separate group of people now manage the housing association, and I think far more effectively than it was done previously. I do not think there is any difficulty nor do I believe there is any objection. I think that the housing problem over the years has caused terrific dissatisfaction within the communities along political lines. It has pitted one group of people against another. It has given various families greater power over other families. We have seen examples of some pretty unhappy situations in Pangnirtung. We have seen fragmentation within the communities as a result of this fragmented approach to life. We have forced the responsibility of housing and the management of housing on the Inuit people who really do not want that kind of responsibility because it is not in harmony with a normal everyday existence of the people within the community. I speak from knowledge that communities such as Pangnirtung are having terrific internal unhappiness as a result of the kind of fragmentation that has taken place there of those who have, those who have not and those who want.

It seems to me that one way of resolving this terrific unhappiness in the large communities -- and it is not getting any better because they are growing at an alarming rate. The population of Pangnirtung for example, some 1100, I am sure some 65 to 70 per cent are under the age of 15. There are no jobs. There are no opportunities. It is a very tough situation. Dorset, Clyde River, Pond Inlet, and it seems to me that they do not need this additional aggravation of the housing problems on top of it. If this could be somehow put under the umbrella of a central organization within the community and the various other agencies responsible to the mayor and council of that community, I think that then you would see leadership develop in the communities. Right now you are not seeing any strong leadership. You are seeing power trips, but you are not seeing people achieving any measure of success through this type of leadership that is necessary in these communities. The leadership is fragmented between the housing association, the social services committee, the welfare committee, this committee, that committee. Get all those great people -- and every community has its share of them -- under one umbrella and get them to then organize and run the community, I think far more effectively.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Are there any further questions? They have to be short now. Thank you very much for your presentation. It is going to be very valuable. And I will see you tonight.

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: Oh, I am not sure that I will be around tonight. I have business, that is why I came this afternoon.

#### MEETING WITH THE BAFFIN HOUSING FEDERATION

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): If you can make it you are welcome. Thank you very much. (Translation) The special committee on housing welcomes MLA Dennis Patterson who is not a Member of the Special Committee on Housing but we welcome him to this meeting and we will allow him to ask questions. If you want to start your presentations you may do so now. Mr. Thomas Kublu, Chairman of the Baffin Housing Federation is here. You can go ahead and start.

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not too well prepared to say specific things but if you have some questions, I will try to answer them, and I think you have a copy of the written presentation that we prepared in Igloodik.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Do we have a copy of that?

CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE (Mr. Canadien): Would that be the minutes of the last federation meeting? Yes, we have received those, thank you. I think that is what he is referring to, the federation minutes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are you talking about the minutes of the Frobisher meeting or were they just prepared in Igloodik?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) I have some concerns that I have brought over from the Igloodik people. That is what I am talking about right now, not the minutes. Perhaps you can read them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I just have one thing further because I know others may want to question him. How then would you select the association membership, make them responsible to the local government? Do you see it as an advisory group of the local government?

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: Yes.

MR. McCALLUM: With the local government then having the ultimate, if you like, responsibility not only for allocation but for other aspects of...

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: Absolutely. As I said the most single important aspect in any community is the housing because that is all these communities are, just a bunch of houses. I mean Pangnirtung -- have you been to Pangnirtung?

MR. McCALLUM: No.

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: A school, a runway and houses and a waiting list. The last time I was in there -- I was invited by the corporation to go with them in February and I think there was something like 200 or 300 groups of people waiting for houses. It was just a crisis in there, a crisis not only just in allocation but a crisis in distribution of water, of providing all these houses with facilities and somewhere to build these damned things. They are running out of land in Pangnirtung. No planning at all has ever occurred. There was never any five year plans, they just go ad hoc. Whenever they need a bunch of houses, "Let's find a piece of land quick and get them in there." They still do the same thing in Frobisher Bay. We have no land available. We had a hell of a time to finally come up with some land recently for some new houses in this community. It is a whole make-shift, band-aid approach to life.

If a community council is going to take on those responsibilities, then there would be an election perhaps every two years or every year. Continuity is important and here we come to another point of where the community councils elected for two years or every year there is a new election, I mean the whole concept is wrong, it does not work, and I think if it were a three year term of office, they would have elections for the council, they would choose their committee chairman and one of them would head up the housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Could you speak closer to your microphone?

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: I am talking too fast. One would head up the housing association, one would head up the health committee, one would head up the social services. There would be some accountability within the community. Right now there is none.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We have heard from this community on the same subject and we were wondering whether the housing association and the hamlet council could work more closely together and we will consider this a proposal from the communities. I will have to have another meeting with another guy but if there are some questions right now, please ask them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Bryan, your comments are very interesting about the role of a municipal government. It is something that I looked at very closely for a number of years. The problem with it is that if that idea had been originated 15 years ago, it probably would work. What has happened in the interim is that there have been so many groups and organizations that have been given responsibilities in different areas and people have been educated that that is the way it is, and it would be very difficult now to change it to your idea. Perhaps a way would be to actually deal with the housing associations now, give them power, and then work on that long-term plan of trying to centralize the authority in a community with the municipal government. Because I think to accomplish your aim it would take all our energy and we still have not come to grips with the real problem that we are trying to solve, that of housing.

right across Europe to go to Lake Harbour and check out some houses in the midst of their construction. They have not put enough effort and responsibility in the regions. They should have much larger regional organizations.

I read with sympathy the comments of people like Tagak Curley who are bitter about the way the corporation has functioned in the Keewatin and I think this bears up that kind of argument. As I have said earlier there has been very good representation from the Eastern Arctic, the squeaky hinge gets the oil and the housing in the Eastern Arctic, I am sure, is far superior to that of the Keewatin because of those reasons, not because of the Housing Corporation's willingness to get away from the empire in Yellowknife.

So it is a two-fold thing I suppose. But the local responsibility is what makes the whole thing work, and if you have a weakness anywhere within the chain, of course it is going to break, and the breaks are occurring in the settlements every day of the week. There has been very good representation from the Eastern Arctic, the squeaky hinge gets the oil and the housing in the Eastern Arctic, I am sure, is far superior to that of the Keewatin because of those reasons, not because of the Housing Corporation's willingness to get away from the empire in Yellowknife. So it is a two-fold thing I suppose. But the local responsibility is what makes the whole thing work, and if you have a weakness anywhere within the chain, of course it is going to break, and the breaks are occurring in the settlements every day of the week. There are crises occurring all the time.

MR. McCALLUM: Well I think that BRC has indicated a desire to take on a lot of the various programs now done through either a centralized Yellowknife office and/or a district or regional office. In other words BRC has indicated that they would like to get involved with education. For example they indicated they would like to be involved with other government programs and I just wonder how you reconcile that, or are you talking specifically in terms of Frobisher Bay?

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: No, I am talking about the region. I really am not expert enough to discuss the Keewatin or the Western Arctic or the native communities up and down the Mackenzie River. I do not know how they function. However, BRC, I have not resolved in my mind what that organization really is, what it wants to be or what it hopes to be. I really question its empire building that is going on at the moment. I question the motives and I see it in conflict with the territorial claims, I see it in conflict with the territorial government. I believe in the private enterprise system. I do not believe in government and bureaucracy and it is obvious that BRC is grabbing or trying to grab more and more responsibility and simply duplicate the services that already exist. If, perchance, housing was to go under the auspices of BRC, and God forbid that it ever did -- because of that reason. There is already an institution, what the hell do you want another one for? If that did happen, what I suggest to you is that the responsibility would still rest with people outside.

The problem with housing is that nobody within the community has any authority, other than the council. The housing association is not responsible to any institution. I mean it is vaguely responsible to some big building in Frobisher Bay who is responsible to another big building in Yellowknife. But the grass roots responsibility has to be within the community. Somebody in the community has to be made responsible. Someone in Lake Harbour, in Pangaitung, in Dorset, has to have a responsibility and decision making skills and responsibility right there on the ground. And housing is the most important single aspect within any community. A problem that has been going on now ever since I lived here, 28 or 29 years, it cannot be managed on a committee basis which is what it is. It is a committee with very little responsibility. It has to go under a bona fide responsible group, and what more responsible can there be than the community council?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Just to continue that, we have heard from various communities that the local housing associations want more responsibility in this. I recognize that the housing associations are made up basically of tenants except in areas where there are housing authorities which are appointed because it is trilateral. But the housing association is made up of a group of tenants and I recognize the comment you made about the nepotism and everything else that is involved, but we have heard that the housing associations want more authority in the design, in the construction arrangements and the labour pools to go along with the allocation responsibility that they have. And I guess what we are hearing from you now is different. You feel that because of the municipal government, regardless of where it is, community or settlement or town or village because of their mandate as a fully elected group should have that concept. I guess that is the crux of the matter. We still have the aspirations of other organizations, the umbrella one that is based in the Baffin Region, the BRC, and I guess we are getting it from a number of people who want more responsibility and that is why I raised that question.

MAYOR BRYAN PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I am not suggesting that they do not get more responsibility. I think that their arguments are valid, to give them more responsibility in design concepts and all the rest of it, but there still has to be a big brother protection. They have to be or they should be under the umbrella of the municipal government. The housing cannot operate in a vacuum. It has to operate as part and parcel of the community, and the number one organization in any community is its council, and it should be given the overall management responsibility and the association would function as a part of the council. There is no reason why it should not have more responsibility, I mean if it is able to handle that responsibility.

One of my concerns is that whilst I started off by saying the Housing Corporation has done a fabulous job when you consider the size of this country and the enormous problems that existed and the terrible housing conditions that existed, they operate in a vacuum. They have put all their eggs in one basket. They have them all in Yellowknife. They have given very little to the regions. They have practically given nothing to the settlements. I mean it takes them all their time to get an inspector to go into a community and check on some houses that are being built because this guy has to come all the way from Yellowknife, thousands of miles, the same distance as

As you may be aware, when the housing federation had a meeting in Frobisher you had some questions that you sent, to see if Igloodik people wanted to receive you and they were directed to the hamlet of Igloodik. As you may be aware the mayor of Igloodik advised our housing association that a letter had been sent to his office outlining the details of community visits by the committee and we therefore could not request your committee to visit our community. Our housing association has 49 of the Weber type public housing units which have severe leaking problems caused by the frost build-up in the attic space. These units began leaking the first year of occupancy and have been leaking ever since. We are aware that this is not a problem that we alone face. We have only recently been successful in convincing the NWT Housing Corporation of the seriousness of some of our problems.

We are not the only people with problems of leaking houses. Recently we were told how important the Housing Corporation is. Five of our worst houses received retrofit roof packages only because the health inspector and the electrical inspector issued reports indicating the units were a serious health and electrical hazard when they leaked. These were five units that the NWT Housing Corporation did not schedule for retrofits because their condition was not serious enough to warrant a new roof, housing which the electrical inspector said must be vacated as soon as they begin leaking because of the severe electrical hazard created by the leaking. Compared to the regional or former district manager, Herb Hunt is not looking after the northern communities housing associations. If you have any questions regarding the leaking problems it is open. These are the main problems we have in our community. There are other items that I would like to comment on but they are different than this letter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Are there any questions on leakage in houses? John?

MR. T'SELEIE: I am not going to ask a question about the houses leaking but I just do not know what this housing federation is. Who does the housing federation represent? I would like some information on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) The housing federation was created or established when we had a conference in Pangnirtung and I was part of that conference. This winter I was elected to be the chairman of the housing federation. The chairmen of the 13 communities in Baffin represent the tenants of the houses and they consult with the tenants so that the communication improves and to have some development as partners.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions? Michael?

MR. ANGOTTITAUQU: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question but I will say it in English. (End of translation) While Thomas is here I would like to ask him a question, as he said something about the leaking houses and the electrical inspector. Under the safety procedure for an inspector to inspect a building, there could be a number of other people besides the electrical inspector. There is also health and the fire marshall. A lot of us know that these inspectors are named as inspectors to sort of try and work for the people to make sure that the buildings are safe. I know for a fact that they have names and if they were doing their job properly, there should be some improvements. I would like to ask Thomas if he thinks these inspectors should be more involved in their work toward the safety of houses in the NWT?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Kublu.

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) There are some inspectors around. I think the houses should be inspected at least once a year so that they will not be a hazard to the tenants. It would help a lot and we would have more control. If there were inspectors for say, electrical and for health reasons -- I think there are three inspectors located here in Frobisher Bay who are supposed to be inspecting the houses that are being built. Do you know if other inspectors come into your community to inspect? I remember only once which was in the spring. Other than that, nobody else has come into the community to do some inspections.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would like to know whose idea it was to form a housing federation. Did it come from the housing associations or did it come from the Housing Corporation? If it came from the Housing Corporation then what authority does the federation have? Does it have any authority over making decisions and being consulted? What is the relationship between the Corporation and the federation?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) The housing federation wanted to create the federation because we wanted more consultation with the Housing Corporation. The Yellowknife government and the Housing Corporation should work closely together so that the housing problem could be decreased in this region. Up to now the housing federation is not running properly because there is no money to do the work that the housing federation wants to do. Last year our secretary in Igloolik consulted if there could be any funds available. The secretary called the federal government in Ottawa and tried to find out if there are any funds that could be available to the housing federation, because she looks after the funds.

Sometime in the past Herb Hunt cut off the funds that were going to us and he sent the money back to Ottawa. The money arrived in Frobisher but he just turned around and did that and never consulted us about that. When the housing federation does not have enough money it does not operate well. We should find a resource person so that the housing federation can function properly and that is one of our aims. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) The question that Mr. T'Seleie asked seems like it did not get the right answer. I think he was trying to ask if the housing federation was formed by the Housing Corporation. To my knowledge, the housing federation was established by the Housing Corporation. Perhaps you are now trying to get away from the Housing Corporation and I would like you to elaborate on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) The housing federation was established when they requested at the conference and they picked up their own name which is "federation". The Housing Corporation approved their request but presently the housing federation is trying to get into its proper track so that they are not controlled by the Housing Corporation. We feel that we should operate on our own so that the natives can have control over the housing matters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Pauloosie?

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) Can I ask a question please? In the Baffin Region the Baffin Regional Council was established due to lack of communication with local government to the hamlet councils. We established BRC so we could have good communication. So the housing federation was established in the similar manner as BRC because they wanted to represent the housing associations. The Housing Corporation is not looking after the federation or the communities very well. They want to lighten up the weight of the housing matters in the Baffin Region. However there has been some subcommittees formed. I will ask the chairman of the housing federation if the Housing Corporation can still look after the federation or can you go on your own?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) Presently the federation is being controlled by the Housing Corporation. We had decided to meet here in Frobisher Bay with the Housing Corporation but they did not approve that due to lack of funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Pauloosie?

MR. PANILOO: (Translation) I would like to ask another question. We all heard from the public in the communities and we are aware that housing associations in the communities want more authority. How would you feel if the housing federation had that kind of power?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas?

MR. THOMAS KUNLU: (Translation) After the housing federation starts running smoothly it will be a lot better. It would be good if they received their own power, or if the 13 communities could consult with each other they would then bring up their concerns to the Housing Corporation. The 13 communities could tell the Housing Corporation how desperate the housing federation needs power.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Do you have any other presentations to bring up?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) I intend to go back to Herb Hunt. Is it okay if I talk about him?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Proceed.

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) The district manager, Herb Hunt, is not very liked by the housing associations in the Baffin Region. They feel that he changes his mind and sometimes it seems as if he is telling lies to the communities and for that reason this creates problems in the communities. For example we prepared a budget for the housing association in Igloolik and we sent it to Herb Hunt. He was supposed to send it to Yellowknife but he did not, he kept it to himself. After getting tired of waiting for an answer we made further investigations. Herb is not trying to help or trying to request enough. He is not working properly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any questions? Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a very short question. I have the letter that he is presenting to us. There is no signature on the letter. Can he tell us who it is from? It just ends with "respectfully submitted". Who is signing the letter?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas.

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) I am sorry. I only signed the Inuktitut version, and I just handed you a copy. I should have signed that letter.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just have a short comment to make. We, as a special committee, are here to listen to all your views and concerns. We are not here to side with anybody or anything like that, so I would like to see that everyone that speaks up and makes presentations, to feel free with their concerns because this will help us to make better recommendations to the Legislative Assembly in November. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Do you have any more comments?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I do not have many comments to make. You have the copy of my presentation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions? Mike.

MR. BALLANTYNE: The mayor of Frobisher Bay made a suggestion before you spoke and it is his belief that if the hamlet councils controlled housing and that the housing association would be responsible to the hamlet council, then instead of a housing federation the BRC could be responsible for housing. Do you think that would be stronger than the housing associations being separate from the hamlet councils? Do you think the BRC could be a stronger voice than the housing federation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas.

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) Thank you. Yes, they would have more authority. It is clear it would be more powerful, however, unfortunately the housing associations within the communities have the best knowledge on housing matters because they are the housing authorities or the committees in the communities. Hamlet councils and Baffin Regional Council, once they understand housing matters, then they would have more power within their mandate. If BRC does not really know what housing is all about in the communities they will make mistakes if this was implemented presently.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Michael.

MR. BALLANTYNE: What was suggested was the housing associations would advise the hamlet council and the hamlet councils would go to BRC and make recommendations to the BRC. That way you would have a lot of power in one organization instead of having two weaker organizations. Do you think that would be possible if the housing association advised the hamlet council?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) Yes, they would definitely be more effective. However, if there are too many committees before we are able to reach the Housing Corporation, that would just create problems. If the committee reports to hamlet councils then there will be too many barriers to reach the Housing Corporation, and that is the problem that would arise.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any further comments or questions?

MR. McCALLUM: I just have one question. Apparently then, Thomas, you have difficulty talking with the district manager. You are in town today. Have you made any attempt to meet with Mr. Hunt today?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thomas?

MR. THOMAS KUBLU: (Translation) I went to see him on Monday but he did not want to talk to me. I tried to make an appointment with him but he refused my request.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any further questions or comments? I would like to thank you at this time because your presentation is recorded. We will be visiting Keewatin too but I cannot tell you exactly on what date. During that trip to the Keewatin we would be willing to travel to Igloodik but I cannot promise you. Thank you very much. We are 20 minutes behind now.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, FROBISHER BAY

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Is Gina Giroux present? I will introduce the Members of the special committee. Red Pedersen, Kitikmeot West; Eliza Lawrence, Tu Nedhe; Joe Arlooktoo, Baffin South; Michael Angottitauruq, Kitikmeot East; John T'Seleie, Sahtu; Mike Ballantyne, Yellowknife North; Ludy Pudluk, High Arctic; Arnold McCallum, Fort Smith. Dennis Patterson is not a member of the housing committee but however he will be with us on a constituency tour. If you have a presentation you may start now. It does not matter if you speak in English or in Inuktitut.

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I have a brief idea of what you want to hear so the presentation that I want to make is already prepared.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) You may continue on your prepared presentation and then we can ask questions.

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) At the present time the main problem on housing you have probably heard before because there were a lot of people who visited the communities. There is a shortage of houses and also large families under one roof in one building. When the children get married and decide to have children there is very little space for them. It is difficult to keep a house clean when there are too many people living in it. This is not my only concern. It is quite difficult to solve these problems and the only way is to have money available. Also, the Inuit are not being consulted on the housing situation because they are not trained on how to handle their own houses. There was no training since they first started building the houses and this has caused problems. Also the housing association was never trained. It was not explained to them what should be happening. If the association could have more resource people, or somebody who has been trained to become a housing association committee member, then it would ease the present problems.

We have to follow the policies of the Housing Corporation but the Inuit would want the committee to have authority to make policies on funding and budgets. The policies that we receive for the housing association are too many and the people get confused as to what should be done because there is too much written material. They should try and make shorter and clearer policies and explain these to the community members. The Inuit should have more input into the policies. I was a member of the housing association and I have experienced this problem. We want our fellow Inuit to understand and we want further involvement in our community when they are making the policies so that we can understand them. For that reason the housing committee is their authority. Our fellow people should try to find proper people who can run the association, and I do not think this can be solved instantly. The operation can only run smoothly if there are funds available. If there are any questions on the subjects I have brought up I can stop here for now.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: Geela, you said that the board of trustees may have too much there. What do you think of the town taking over housing the way the town has the social services?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) That is a pretty hard question to answer right now. I think the people should learn a bit more before they have more control over it, if they were to run it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you believe that developing a board of trustees is in the best interest of the people of Frobisher Bay when you have the people who are acting managers in the corporation sitting on the board deciding himself that he should be the chairman? Do you believe that is in the best interests of the local people?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) No, I do not think that would be in the best interest of the people. Also the mayor, the secretary and myself -- I work for Social Services -- there are three of us. When there are three Inuks on the board of trustees, we do not have much to say because the other members have so much power. The only time they will listen to us is if we really push, and we only do that sometimes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Just for the record, because I am not too clear on it, are you saying there are only three Inuit people on the board of trustees?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) Yes, there are only three of us Inuit members.

MRS. LAWRENCE: And you feel that you are overruled in any decision that has been made?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) Yes, it is obvious. Sometimes I try to push for things and it is very hard. Sometimes I cannot even keep talking.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any more questions? John.

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: I would like to know who you represent. Do you represent just Frobisher?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I work for the municipality of Frobisher and I was elected to be a member of the housing association because I am from Social Services.

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: I like your idea about training and I guess what you mean is housing education. Most of us on this committee are not really new to the housing game and we have heard a lot of recommendations that come from community people so far in our travels and to my way of thinking, at least here in the East, I see housing education as being very important, not only for health reasons but other reasons, for people to understand the rent system, the home-ownership system, what those kinds of things mean. I can tell you now that one of the recommendations I will be pushing for is housing education for the Eastern Arctic. I wanted to say that for other members of the committee that I am thinking along those lines.

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) Can I make some more comments? I am very happy to hear that you are supporting the idea. If there are any damages done in the house they have to pay for it and they are told that the houses are not in a very clean condition. Sometimes the people get confused that they owe so much money and have to pay such a high rent. Sometimes the tenants are shocked by the increases because they do not know why, because they have never been told in the past and this creates problems. Sometimes they are called ignorant but it is not their fault because they have never been told these things.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further questions? Do you have any more comments?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) Also regarding home-ownership programs, especially here in Frobisher, only the kabloona are the ones that are buying in the home-ownership program and through this we understand that because the kabloona can easily read the brochures and the information and we Inuit we read very slowly in Inuktitut, so they can get information faster than us. So therefore they ask around and they know they can get assistance if they want to buy a house. So they benefit more than the Inuit in the home-ownership program. The Inuit do not know that they can also get assistance from different agencies. For that reason a lot of people are not anxious to buy houses. We are trying to slowly inform our people of the assistance that is available. Sometimes there is a house for sale and we do not know anything about it and it is bought up. If the Inuit were working for the government they could get assistance. They could get subsidies for gas and electricity.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Eliza.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make a comment. We have heard that in some communities when they requested information on home-ownership they were never given that information. Neither were they given training when they asked to be trained. Some communities even feel that maybe the Housing Corporation is afraid to train the people in the associations because they might get to know too much and want to take over. But what you are telling us we will certainly seriously consider when we make our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly next fall in our interim report. I wish everyone would come out and state their concerns and not be afraid to speak because of their boss or whoever is on their association or board of trustees. I really appreciate you coming forth and telling us your concerns. I know exactly what you are talking about. Thank you.

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I would also like to thank you very much. I definitely want to see some training programs here in our community. We want to try and inform all the Inuit as to how they can purchase or how to go on the home-ownership program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Red.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify home-ownership. Does home-ownership mean purchase of the older houses, not building the new ones, is that right?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) It is for both, the old houses and new houses. There is not enough information and a lot of people do not know that these older houses are for sale.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Any further questions? Joe.

MR. JOE ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) After the housing association board ceased to exist, what did the people of Frobisher mention to the board of trustees? Did anybody say their concern about that?

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) The thing we notice is that when people find out what happened, they do not understand the funding part and they get disappointed. Because I am social worker, the people who come and see me talk about these things.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) You being a social worker have had experience in this department and with what the Inuit are doing. After the housing association has been dismantled and there is only a board of directors, which one is going to solve the problem or is the board of trustees just going to create more problems for the people of Frobisher Bay.

MS GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) No, these cannot be implemented. When you think who is on the board -- I think this will create more problems for the community because all of these people are too high positioned employees. I think they should have hired better people in the communities who have more concern for housing. It should be a person who has better knowledge, a resource person.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions. Thank you for your presentation. It will help us a lot.

---ADJOURNMENT

MEETING WITH FROBISHER BAY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I will introduce the special committee. Red Pedersen, Kitikmeot West; Eliza Lawrence from Denendeh; Joe Arlooktoo; Mike Ballantyne; and also this is a representative from Baffin East. If you have a presentation please say so.

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) We have a brief presentation for you, to tell you what the past and present situation is on housing. First of all I would like to talk about secretary and office operations and also about my fellow housing association members when they had an election. Also how the Housing Corporation took over on our responsibilities. Please feel free to ask questions in between.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I understand that you are the former housing association chairman, is that correct? Yes. When did they decide to have the board of trustees and why are they not having any more housing association? When did they start this board of trustees and do away with the housing association? When did you finish as chairman?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: I am still chairman and we had a meeting about three or four months ago. After the Housing Corporation took over things are not running well because we do not have an office for our meeting or I do not have any...

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I think I am confused as well as she is. I really don't know who she is representing right now. Can you tell me?

MS PENNY AUMOND: If I can offer some clarification and Anna May can correct me if I am wrong. When the Housing Corporation terminated the management agreement with the Frobisher Bay Housing Association that did not mean that there was no longer an association, it just meant that the association no longer had management responsibilities for the Housing Corporation's units. So there is this board of trustees now in Frobisher Bay, if I understand correctly, but the housing association, to my knowledge, has never been formally disbanded, but its powers have been taken away from management of the units. Is that correct?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: Yes.

A SPEAKER (Female): When the Housing Corporation cancelled the management agreement with the housing associations, the housing association is still an independently incorporated society. So they still continue to exist and have a bit of funding left from some equity from some previous contracts and they are just trying to decide what role they can play now and how they can continue to represent the tenants even though they do not have any control over the actual management.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you. I was a little confused.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I guess just to proceed along with what Mrs. Lawrence asked. When did this occur and why?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: The first time I was elected chairman, it is hard to have a meeting when we have three kinds of people in Frobisher Bay, the Inuit, kabloona and French people, we are so mixed in Frobisher. I did not want to be chairman, they had to call me three times. I said I did not know anything.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: What reasons did the Housing Corporation give you when they refused to renew the management contract?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) We were elected to the housing association board. After we were elected, when we had our second meeting, the housing association took over. We were not told they were going to take over. It seems that they thought because we were women we did not know anything. This is the impression I had from the Housing Corporation.

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) No they never explained fully as to what was happening. Because the members were older people and I was one of the younger members and I could understand a bit of English -- we thought it was ceased because we were not able to manage it. I knew that if you were elected you were to run the housing association and right after we were elected, the Housing Corporation took over. I was quite happy to be elected to the housing association because I would be learning of the housing situation. But then right after we were elected the Housing Corporation took over. We then had no houses to work with and no place to meet. They did not let us know what was happening. The Housing Corporation will be running the housing association even though they do not have Inuk in the house of trustees. The maintenance people are not very happy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) One of the questions that was raised is, were you given any written information that the Housing Corporation was going to take over?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) No, they never gave me any letter. He just told us what was happening, verbally. We know that the Housing Corporation was not running the housing associations in other communities. Other communities were asking me why this was happening. Inuit get kind of scared of the kabloona procedures. I feel that since I was born here and I know the problems, I should have just told the Housing Corporation to listen to us because we were elected by the people. So this is the feeling I have.

MR. RED PEDERSEN: How long after the election did the Housing Corporation take over. How long were you on the board?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) We asked them how long they were going to run the housing association and they said it would be three or more months. I asked them after three or six months. They told us that they would give us some explanation. They told us we were not going to have any more power and no control even if we were an elected board. I got very disappointed because these unelected people are running the association. I asked a lot of questions regarding that matter. They also told us that the board of directors was not functioning well. I tried to make it clear to the corporation that we were trying to follow our mandate.

MR. PEDERSEN: How long of a chance did you have on the board?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: It was about a month or two after.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to ask a question. Are these board of directors trustees or are these the former board of directors?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) There were two former board of directors, the rest of us were new.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Since the letter of resignation was signed, did you find out what kind of contract it was?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) We had a very long meeting regarding the operational policies and even the older people were being lectured, so they got confused. When the representative was making too long of a lecture, I had to stop him sometimes, we had translation difficulties and sometimes I had to translate, so it was very hard to get involved in the meeting at the same time. Also the presentation was not very satisfactory to me.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) I have a lot of questions to ask but we are running out of time. Would you like to be the board of directors again, so the housing association can be established?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) Personally, I have consulted with other board of directors and we were not informed enough of the operation. I would like to extend my eligibility as a board of director and not stop in the middle of my term. I would like to extend my term for a one year period. If we are going to use this system we will have to bring new elected members to the board of directors because all of the other communities have board of directors and here in Frobisher Bay we do not have a board of directors.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) For your information the housing associations in the communities received the operating policy that the corporation would tell them what kind of powers they had in the communities. I think that is what was done in Frobisher.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many of you were on the association that you are on right now? How many women? Perhaps you can get me that information and hand it to me later on, because we are running out of time. When this board of trustees was formed, was any members from your association you are on right now, invited to sit on it?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) No, none of us went to the board of trustees. There was one male and the others were female. We were going to hold another meeting but the Housing Corporation said we could not. The male member consulted with the Housing Corporation about problems in Frobisher Bay. After he was informed about that he resigned from the board of directors.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: I have some wrong information Mr. Chairman. I understood that Philippa Gordon, who is listed here as being one of the board of trustees, was she not a member before?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) These board of trustees were appointed by the town council and we never met with them before and we tried to invite the board of trustees to our meeting. They are not elected, just appointed, and in fact they told us they cannot attend our meeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would like you to encourage the other tenants to attend our meeting tonight and give us their views and concerns. It means a lot to us to hear them so we can make a good recommendation to the Legislative Assembly in the fall sitting. I do not want anyone to be scared. We are not here to attack anyone. We want changes to be made for the better of all the communities. I would just like to thank people for coming. I would like you to encourage the women to come because it seems to be the women who suffer more because they seem to be at home with the children a lot more than their husbands.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Anymore comments?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: (Translation) If I try to make a presentation it would take a long time, so I will summarize. When there was a chairman's conference of the housing associations. It would be a long presentation, it would take all day. It is very challenging for me to be a member of the board of directors. Here in Frobisher Bay there are people who are not concerned about this, and there are others who would like to be elected. I will answer any questions. I don't think that person recognizes me, I used to babysit for him. Are you Mr. Pedersen?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) I would like to thank you for coming here. Tonight at 7:30 there is going to be a public meeting. Please attend. Thank you for inviting us. Let us take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MEETING WITH THE HILLSIDE HOUSING COOP

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): I would like to introduce the Special Committee on Housing members. The first one is Red Pedersen for Kitikmeot West, Joe Arlooktoo for Baffin South, Mark Angottauruq for Kitikmeot East, John T'Selele for Sahtu, Mike Ballantyne for Yellowknife North and Eliza Lawrence for Tu Nedhe. We may have to rush things a little. We were supposed to have these hearings earlier in the spring but we had trouble getting accommodations. We rushing things now, I do not like this but we sometimes get tired too. So if you have presentations for us, we would like you to proceed.

MS MARY ELLEN THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take a minute to introduce you to some of the Hillside Housing Co-op. At the far end is Ingrid Panayi who is the secretary of our board; Allan Kary who is our treasurer; and Cathy Moore who is a member of the board. Assisting me today with our presentation is Gary McLellan who is a consultant for our project and beside him is George D'Aoust who will be with you tomorrow at the site to look at the houses so that you can ask any questions about the contracting of the project. If there are also construction questions tht any of you may have, George is here to answer them.

The members of the Hillside Housing Co-op would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you. We realize you are all tired and have had many, many meetings. We will try to be as brief as possible. In this presentation this afternoon I will try to explain to you some of the history of the organization, some of the problems we have encountered in the past two years and our present situation that we face. If any of you are not clear about anything, please stop me and ask me more clarification because this topic of housing co-ops may be new to you and we would like to answer you as well as possible.

I will start to speak now about the history of the organization. The original idea began about two years ago when the members of the PSA and others began to look for information about the different ways we could acquire some control over our living conditions. Many of us were unhappy living in government housing and our main goal was to get affordable, inexpensive houses that were designed for our needs as long-term northern residents. Contact with our MLA, Dennis Patterson, led the group to the consultants for the Yellowknife co-op housing project and this was the only program that we found would allow us to get what we wanted. The main things we were looking for was some kind of choice about where we live, control over the management and operation of our own homes, the kind of housing where the cost was stable, where we would not have increased rental costs, housing costs always changing. We wanted some kind of costs that were stable. We also wanted participation in the design. We also wanted housing suitable for the environment.

From that point where we decided that coop housing was the way that we should go, an interim board was established that obtained start-up funding and with that funding we conducted a feasibility study to see if running a business could succeed. This was completed and the project was submitted to CMHC. Are there any questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Start-up funding from where?

MS THOMAS: From CMHC.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions? Proceed.

MS THOMAS: I will speak now about some of the problems we encountered and I will briefly mention four: the high cost of construction in the North; the short construction season; our lack of skilled northern workers; and transportation problems. I will return briefly to high costs.

A project very similar to our own, in Red Deer, Alberta, cost just under \$1 million. The project that we designed cost closer to \$4 million. These were major problems but they have not been the overriding important one. Our major problem has been that the National Housing Act and Canada Mortgage and Housing have not been responsive to our special needs in the North. Perhaps you will understand this if I give you an example. At one point we repeatedly had to explain why we needed more insulation than was standard in a southern home. This and similar situation left us with no other tactic except to resort to political pressure to achieve our goals. I would like to thank publicly Dennis Patterson and Peter Ittinuar and the Members of the Legislative Assembly for their support and assistance in getting the project approved. Perhaps I will stop, are there any clarifications anyone wants?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: The figures you mentioned \$1 million and \$4 million, perhaps we tour the project tomorrow and we can relate better but how many units are we talking about?

MS. THOMAS: We're talking about 20 units. They are duplex units -- so 10 duplexes.

MR. PEDERSEN: And the figures you mentioned, \$1 million and \$4 million. Was that the same year as dollars, the Red Deer project, was that the same year as yours?

MS. THOMAS: Yes, it was.

MR. PEDERSEN: And the difference in cost was due to the generally high cost but also to the higher standards of your building. Is that correct?

MS THOMAS: Yes, that's correct.

MR. PEDERSEN: They are not the same standard, exactly?

MS THOMAS: They were very similar.

MR. PEDERSEN: Except for insulating, probably triple glazing, etc.

MS THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): When you speak to each other, could you make a space between comments for the translators to keep up. Any further questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: You are saying the cost is \$4 million for 20 units? So it's \$20,000 per unit, is that right?

MS THOMAS: Just under that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions?

MS THOMAS: We are not individual home-owners who are responsible for everything ourselves and we are not just tenants who are responsible for very little. We have really the best of both worlds. We control all aspects of running the business and we have input into all the decisions that affect us. To do this, we pool our skills so that everyone benefits. We are going through a process of developing. That means learning new skills to run our business and for many of us that means participating in something which is breaking our dependence upon the government. This has presented us with minor problems of working together however we are very confident that we can solve them and grow stronger as a group as time goes on.

We've considered how you might help us in any future co-op which might develop. The first thing is that we need resources within the North that give us long-term assistance, training and advice. And perhaps we need to share what we've learned with other communities so that they can learn from us, and we need policies which will aid our group in developing further.

I'd like now to ask Gary McLellan if he will continue with the second part of this presentation as jointly from the two projects that he has worked with there are some recommendations that have a more territorial prospective.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Before you go on, there will be some questions. Mr. McCallum.

MR. MCCALLUM: I'd just like to ask a couple of questions. If you don't mind I'll just run them all and then you can respond if you would. Are the 10 duplexes similar and if not, how do they differ? What is the equity involved in these units by each occupant? Does the society own the land and finally, what is the amortization set up?

MS THOMAS: We have 20 units and to design those units we went through many, many meetings to determine what it was that our members needed. We looked at what their future needs would be, what were the size of their families and from those we decided that there were four two bedroom units needed, 14 three bedroom units and two four bedroom units. As well, the houses as you will see have special considerations built into them for our needs. One of them is a cold storage area, where things like caribou skin parkas, bicycles, things can be brought in for storage in the units.

Another consideration was that some of our members order sealift and we needed a large area where food supplies for a year could be stored. It was by the consideration of what our members wanted that our architect worked to design the units for us.

As for equity, the members of the co-op hold shares in the organization and at this point we are considering equities of the right term we use the term called "member loans" which are re-payable. Shares in the co-op cost \$25 and when a person is no longer a shareholder in the company that share is returned to the co-op.

Your third question, does the society own the land. We don't believe in land-ownership and that is something that Gary will be speaking of, the possibility of land trusts and I will leave that for a moment as he will speak about it momentarily.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Are there any further questions on that?

MR. McCALLUM: Just amortization.

MS THOMAS: There is a fourth question on amortization. There is a 35 year mortgage.

MR. McCALLUM: What rate? Every three years, every year?

MR. GARY McLELLAN: The term on it is five years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: When you started out your presentation you mentioned you mentioned as members of the PCA. Do I take it from that, that all your occupants are public servant?

MS THOMAS: No. Though the original motion was made by Sammy Peter who is a member of the PSA and some of the original work was begun by PSA members, we have a fair representation of government employees, private businessmen and general people from the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Gary would you like to make your presentation now.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am with an organization called Camunataze Incorporated out of Edmonton, Alberta. My involvement, as Mary Ellen has explained has been as a consultant to the group.

Just briefly, Camunataze Incorporated is a non-profit organization which was incorporated in 1972 that provides housing and community development assistance to housing groups in northern Alberta and the NWT. Camunataze has worked with the Borealis Housing Co-operative in Yellowknife and the Hillside Housing Co-op here in Frobisher Bay. In addition, we have discussed housing options and possibilities with residents in Pangnirtung, Fort Smith and Cambridge Bay.

The number of issues and concerns regarding housing have arisen from our experience as a delivery agent and we would like to share these experiences and concerns with the committee. Traditionally in Canada we have relied on two sectors for the development of housing. The private sector and the government sector. Within the last 20 years, a new sector has emerged which is often referred to as the third sector. This sector is based upon local community initiative and is represented by the efforts of private non-profit corporations and housing co-operatives.

In the NWT, the private sector has historically been insignificant and as a result the bulk of housing has been produced by the government sector. As in the rest of the country, the third sector is just emerging in the NWT. Without a doubt, all three sectors would probably have a role to play in any future northern housing. The questions that perhaps should be addressed in the development of a northern housing policy is what type of development policies, government should encourage.



A large proportion of housing in the North was both developed, maintained and managed by the government sector. While there certainly is merit in government sector activity when there are no other options or when no other sector is willing to deliver housing it is questionable as to whether a future housing policy should be primarily dependant upon government. While there are a variety of reasons that are given for the government sector not being the primary force in housing delivery, perhaps one of the most significant is the fact that this delivery system fosters dependency.

In addition, the resident of a government sector project often has no sense of his own space, his home is not his home nor is it an extension of himself. Rather it is a stopping point as long as he meets the qualifications required to live there. In developing any housing policy, it is important to recognize that a roof is not enough. Rather, we should be striving to develop appropriate human habitats that will encourage people to become stronger and more independent. While a precise definition of appropriate human habitat is not possible, various elements can be identified with some certainty. Such a habitat should provide the individual with physical spaces for privacy as well as for communication and collective action within increasingly broad ranges of people including the family, the immediate neighbours, the community and the government.

Finally, the habitat should provide the individual with security both mental and physical as he moves between these phases. Government intervention may well be able to facilitate the development of appropriate human habitats, however, it is suggested that the public sector management maintenance may well inhibit people's sense of control, responsibility and independence.

There are two components of the private sector. The first is the individual who develops his own home, the second is the private entrepreneur who is involved in housing for the purpose of private gain. Historically, in the NWT, private individuals and the community were the main housing initiators. Currently, there are programs that continue to encourage this private individual initiative. Unfortunately it appears the design of these programs are such that most residents or those that require it the most are unable to benefit from them. Private business initiatives have been limited in the North with the exception of communities such as Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River, there are few private rental projects. While this lack of business activity might be seen as the main housing problem, perhaps in fact it has been a blessing to the North. The interests of the private businessman are not necessarily the creation of appropriate human habitats but rather something from which they can gain a return on their investment.

The cultural and environmental context of the North requires a type of housing development that would not be necessarily considered a good investment. Since the current housing market would not support the economic costs of housing let alone to give a return on an investment. A private businessman who is willing to forego a return on his operations usually looks towards a profit on the sale of his property at a later date. This encouragement of such capital gains would only result in continual price increases and again limit the accessibility to those of lower income households.

While the third sector requires individual or community initiative, it is distinguished from the private sector in that it is not interested in housing from the investment prospective, rather it is interested in the production of housing. In fact, some even argue that private individuals who develop housing for themselves are part of the third sector rather than the private business sector. Because the third sector is represented either by people who are developing housing for themselves that they will manage or by people who are developing housing for other members of their community, this sector is more likely to develop the most appropriate and affordable housing.

We would recommend that in developing any future housing policy that the GNWT consider policies, that

- 1) promote some private individual initiative
- 2) promote the third sector
- 3) promote public intervention in the delivery of houses
- 4) promote the public sector in housing where the third sector or individual initiative is not possible.

Before I go on to the next section, if anybody has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just toward the end of what you said so far, you mentioned lower income household and the most appropriate and affordable housing to be provided by the third sector. Could you put this in a cost prospective to me. We got into units just under the \$200,000 level each amortized over 35 years at market rates 12 and up. What are the monthly costs of operating including the utilities?

MS THOMAS: Perhaps I could ask our treasurer to give that information.

MR. ALLAN KARY: If I remember correctly, over the year mortgage costs \$433,259, utilities costs \$45,000, \$25,200 for heating costs, water and sewage delivery \$7000-odd.

MS THOMAS: Could you give the monthly housing charges.

MR. ALLAN KARY: Monthly housing charges including utilities for a four bedroom is \$1215 per month, three bedroom is \$1165 a month, and a two bedroom is \$1095 a month. That includes heating and utilities and those other things.

MS THOMAS: There are subsidies available for families who cannot afford these costs and is limited to 25 per cent of the income of a household.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: If I may just give a further example, the figure that Mr. Kary quoted of \$1165 a month being the cost to the member, the economic cost without any form of subsidy would rather than \$1165 would be \$2350 a month. That's for repayment of mortgage and all operating costs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Who provides the subsidy, please.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: The federal government through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Anymore questions? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I'd just like you to explain the last statement you made that you recommend four any kind of housing that goes on, there were four particular areas. Would you just explain again the final one.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: The final one was to promote the public sector in housing where the third sector or individual initiative is not possible. What we may get into there would be, for instance, a very...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Could you hold on for a second. What's wrong there? Too fast. Could you slow down a bit, please. Thank you.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: In a settlement where only two or three housing units would be required that perhaps it would be most appropriate for the government to do that directly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I'd just like to pursue this because it seems to me that you had indicated that private individuals prior to you listing these four recommendations that private individuals in your estimation were part of a third sector.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: In an instance they can be considered -- people that are developing a house in the North for themselves can be considered more in line with the third sector than they would with the private sector at this point. In the South, housing is not simply a shelter, but is now considered to be more importantly an investment. People building for themselves in the North, there is a segment of them that are strictly building for shelter purposes only not for investment. Not necessarily looking for a return on their investment. So in that sense they could be considered as part of the third sector because the third sector does not promote any return on investment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further questions? No. Proceed.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: Thank you. The shift of responsibility from the government sector to the private individual and third sector has a number of interesting and exciting implications. Aside from the social and community development aspects, which will be dealt with later it has overall economic implications. There is a potential for the creation of employment opportunities for persons who would be involved with ongoing property and equipment maintenance. If new housing units were to be placed in the community where residents were responsible for their own maintenance, for example, appliances, electrical and mechanical systems, they should have access to skills, tools and equipment within their communities to enable them to maintain their own units. The transference of responsibilities without the concurrent transfer of skills will simply result in an overall failure. Therefore, in developing any housing policy that results in a shift from a primary dependence upon the government sector the overall social implications must be taken into consideration.

There are four components that we would recommend as part of any housing program in the NWT. There is a need for supply programs, secondly there is a need for demand programs, thirdly social development programs and fourth a delivery program. It is not by any means suggested that the NWT government take financial responsibility for all of these components but rather that the GNWT should ensure that any program they negotiate with other senior levels of government should include these four components.

I'll briefly outline the four components. The supply program -- housing in the North is and will continue to be more expensive than any other part in Canada. There are a number of reasons for this differential in cost. First there is the fact that materials and labour generally are brought in from the outside. Second, the environment establishes design requirements that are not faced in any other parts of the country. Even the design requirements in the North vary greatly from one location to another. For example, the project that we developed in Yellowknife would not be adequate for Frobisher Bay and the Frobisher Bay project would certainly not be adequate for Pangnirtung when giving consideration to wind factors, servicing requirements, etc.

In addition to environmental requirements, there are also cultural requirements that need to be taken into consideration. A house designed for southern Canada will not meet the requirements of the North and it seems quite pointless to develop inadequate, inappropriate and sub-standard housing in the North. Even in southern Canada, it is difficult for anyone to develop housing without some form of supply subsidies. This situation is made worse in the North because of the transportation and environmental requirements.

Supply side subsidies are required to enable the production of housing that is available to users at rates which are what others pay rather than not what it really costs. The example that was just given for the difference in the current housing charge that the co-op is paying versus the economic cost. For example, without the 56-1 CMHC assistance in the first year the maximum monthly charges for a three bedroom including appliances, utilities, and all other operating expenses, in the Yellowknife co-op would have been \$1798 per unit per month rather than the \$835 that each member is paying. And the Frobisher Co-op, \$2350 a month rather than the \$1165. Part of the reason for the difference between the real economic cost and the maximum charges are a result of high interest rates. However, the main reason for the difference is in fact that the capital and operating costs are very high which results in a high economic costs. Are there any questions at this point?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee? Proceed.

MR. GARY McLELLAN: Number two is demand programs. Demand programs are also essential to ensure that households who cannot pay the market rates without exceeding 25 per cent of their income also have access to the housing programs. Individuals who have access to housing allowances in fact are already receiving a demand subsidy. A large income gap exists between those receiving housing allowances and those who do not. In order to pay the maximum housing charges in the Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay co-ops, a household should annually earn \$40,080 or \$55,920 respectively in order to stay within the 25 per cent of income category. There are many households in the NWT who are not able to afford these costs.

Number three, the social development or education program. This component is probably the most significant of the four since no supply or demand or delivery programs will be effective if the home occupant is not willing or able to responsibility for their own housing. The need for an educational program is possibly more critical in the North because of the current primary reliance upon the government sector that has fostered a dependence rather than inter-dependent relationship

between the user and the supplier of housing. In developing an education program there are two aspects that must be taken into consideration. First, the initial development that should occur before a housing program is implemented. Second, the ongoing support service that will enable residents to maintain their homes. It is suggested that rather than creating a new infrastructure, that this service could be provided for by the Department of Education through the advanced education division.

Number four, program delivery. It is essential that there be a delivery agent who will facilitate the development of housing by both groups and individuals. There is additional work that must be done to deliver a project in the North. The logistics of co-ordinating materials, consultants, mortgage lenders, contractors, surveyors, etc. poses very special problems. Time schedules become more critical -- a missed boat can actually mean a delay of a year in a project. Inclimate or changing weather conditions can also result in extremely costly delays. It is essential that any delivery program be taken into account the specific requirements of northern development.

There are basically two approaches that could be used to establish a delivery program. First the government could establish itself as a delivery agent and second the government could work in conjunction with a non-profit delivery agent to ensure the delivery of the program. Past experience, not just with housing delivery, but with other community development oriented programs indicates that it is difficult for a government department or agency to act as a development agent. Therefore, it is recommended that the government look at establishing or working with a non-profit organization for the delivery of a housing program. Are there any questions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions? Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: How many of the occupants receive GNWT or federal housing allowance?

MR. GARY McLELLAN: There's over 10 families out of the 20 who are receiving GNWT housing allowances so they are eligible for \$450 a month housing allowance plus \$300 a month utility allowance. As I understand it, that \$300 goes to anybody living in private accommodation. It doesn't matter if you are a territorial employee or not. Maybe I'm misunderstanding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I know you have just started the project, have you had any turnover of occupants as yet?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mary.

MS THOMAS: There are people who have transferred from the community, there are people who have left the community, there are also people who have decided they no longer wish to be members of the co-op. There are a core group of people who have continued for over two years -- I believe there are 12 or 13 families who have been in from the beginning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any further questions? John.

MR. T'SELEIE: I have never been involved in a co-op and I don't quite understand how they work but I have an idea of how they work and one of the things about co-ops is that in the beginning when they are started the members are suppose to put in so much into whatever the project is and I wonder when you started how much money did you require from your members to get started.

MS THOMAS: At this point, all that is required is a \$25 membership.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Pedersen.

MR. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We got some figures from the Housing Corporation this morning -- figures such as the average cost of operating housing units in the Baffin Region and the \$1240 per month which includes amortization of capital, maintenance, utilities, the total cost, the average rent collected is \$98 per month which comes to \$1142 a month subsidy and that is the figure we were fighting with. The program you are describing where as it sounds very philosophically very nice economically but does not sound to be except for the fact that you are getting a better quality of housing the public subsidy to your project is indeed higher than it is to the project presently provided. I am sure that the quality is a great deal nicer to live in but I am just having a little difficulty with the emphasis

I am just having a little difficulty with the emphasis to stop the government housing, because in fact financially your project seems to me to be the same things. If you have a \$25 input, and particularly in the cases where you are applying an additional \$750 a month to the \$1185 a month CMHC subsidy. It becomes a very highly subsidized program and it seems to be only affordable for those in the \$56,000 a year range. Is that correct?

MR. McLELLAN: I am not familiar with the corporation's figures, however the federal subsidy after year five, diminishes on a five per cent per year basis, that is five per cent of payment. So one must not look simply at the yearly cost but in terms of the total cost over the life span of the project, for total subsidy dollars. Secondly, this program promotes the idea of people being totally responsible for their own maintenance and ongoing management which I think is quite different from the other programs available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you, is there any further questions? Proceed.

MR. McLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Housing possibilities, any housing policy should allow both for the construction of new units as well as a conversion of existing government owned units to a private individual or a group. Regardless of the form of tenure or the initiative it is suggested that perhaps the GNWT should explore the possibility of maintaining ownership over land or turning over the land to a community land trust which would in turn lease the land to an individual or group user. This will prohibit land speculation and as a result inhibit housing speculation. In addition it will insure that any land developed takes into account both the ecological prerequisites, the requirements of the local community and perhaps even the traditional land use and occupancy.

There are a variety of programs that could be established. For example in some situations it may be more appropriate to transfer ownership of a unit to the occupant for a minimal payment, on condition that the proceeds from any future sale, be paid back to the government. Such a program might be required in a community where the household income would not support both the loan repayment and operating costs. In other circumstances, a program similar to the CMHC program, for non-profit organizations and co-operatives, which provide both supply and demand assistance, might be more appropriate.

It is suggested that in developing programs to implement the housing policy, that two factors be taken into account. First is program flexibility, for the purpose of ensuring equality among the communities with regard to program access. The second is consultation with the local communities and potential users, both with regard to determining specific housing needs and establishing delivery schedules for the various communities.

In conclusion, the territorial government is to be commended for initiating the consultative process as the first step toward developing housing policies and programs. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a presentation to the committee, unfortunately because of lack of lead time, we have only been able to provide the committee with a very general overview. I think in concluding I would simply like to relate a couple of very recent experiences with housing.

When we were first called in to develop the project in Yellowknife, although it had some difficulties, we were able to develop that project quite reasonably. Then being called upon to come into Frobisher, a smaller community, we found that again with even greater difficulty, we were able to adapt the current CMHC program in Frobisher. But I stress that it was with much more difficulty than was evident in Yellowknife. Having been given the opportunity to address committees in much smaller communities, most recently Pangnirtung and Cambridge Bay, for the first time since we have been delivering this program, we have had to tell the residents that we could not make this program work in their communities. Simply because of the economics and because of the salary levels in those settlements. It is the smaller settlements, in our view, that require the assistance the most. But the realization we have come to is that this program is not going to work in smaller settlements. My discussions with representatives of the corporation in both of these communities, also indicate that although they have programs, they do not have any programs from which the majority or the most needy can benefit. I believe that these are the areas that should be given the most consideration. Again I thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not too familiar with the coop, I have never been involved with them. I am very impressed with your presentation and the amount of work that has been put into the project by the tenants, having been able to have a say in designing the units to meet the needs of the tenants, controlling of management, etc. You mentioned you were frustrated in trying to obtain some information regarding housing, I just want to make a comment that it is very hard for some of us who do not speak English or read and write to get proper information, they give you the runaround, you become so frustrated that you just give up. Perhaps your co-op can give the proper information to the communities. It seems you are doing a lot of work and the housing associations should adapt your system so that the people can get proper information. I am only making a comment. I would like to thank you for your presentation. We are here to listen to your view and concerns and it will help us make a good recommendation to the Assembly and will help us make a good interim report for November. I am impressed with your presentation. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Ms Thomas.

MS THOMAS: In response, speaking English did not help that many times. We faced many frustrating experiences. The only thing that assisted us was having resource people who knew how to go through the system. If I could make one recommendation, it would be to build in somewhere, within the government, an information system where people can have access to many alternatives and to share information, people learn from each other. Perhaps a conference, people involved in alternative housing methods. Begin to talk about the differences might be an approach.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I have a brief comment. I was somewhat involved in the project in Yellowknife and was very successful and even helped to alleviate some major shortages in Yellowknife. We would really appreciate having a copy of your report and if you are prepared to do a more detailed report and get it to the committee or give it at another hearing, perhaps in Yellowknife. That would be very helpful to us. And lastly, if you could think of any ways where your program could be adapted to fit the needs of smaller communities, that would be very helpful. Thank you.

MR. McLELLAN: I do have copies of our report available. I have indicated to the committees secretary that a translated copy will also be made available within approximately 10 days and will be forwarded to the committee. Although I have skimmed over parts of the text, we will be prepared to put together a much more detailed report.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: You do not have to answer my question if you do not want to, but I am just curious to know what the average salary level of your tenants is?

MS THOMAS: Since we do not have that information immediately available, we would be prepared to send it in writing to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: It is unfortunate that such a program is not available in the small communities because as you so correctly put it, that it where such a program is needed. People do not have to spend such a great amount of their personal equity, to take advantage of all these great and wonderful programs that are available, who get subsidies from whatever sources, but I am afraid that the kind of program, although it is very successful in the cities, in the larger towns, will only create and enhance the kind of animosity that we hear now. The larger communities have it and those who live in the smaller communities cannot get it. I only make that as a comment, I am not suggesting that what you are doing is wrong. Wherever it can be done, I think it is a worth-while thing, there is no question about it. People in any community want to get a home and not just a shelter. Our problem now is that we will continue to provide shelters unless we can get some access to similar programs for the smaller communities, whereas in the larger communities we will provide home, whether they are private and one wants to make an investment on it, or whether one wants to simply own on principle, their own house.

Your presentation was articulate and everything else that goes with it, and maybe I will say this reluctantly, but what the hell I will say it, it gives those people that have -- more, those that have not -- to some extent they are SOL.

MR. McLELLAN: May I comment on that please. Since our involvement in the NWT we have recognized exactly what you are saying. We believe we are among the first to have made the suggestion to the federal government through the CMHC agency, that this program through its current form is not suitable. However it is a federal program, it in theory should work anywhere in the country. It is recognized that it does not work up here but we have already made suggestions to them to modify it, to make it suitable to settlements. Unfortunately, a very small organization like ourselves unfortunately does not carry much impact with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. What I would like to see happen is for the territorial government perhaps to begin some kind of discussions or negotiations with the federal government to modify the program.

As I indicated in my presentation, we surely do not suggest that the territorial government assume all financial responsibility. If the government has put together programs, this one also being recognized as a housing program for modest income people. If it is supposed to work here in the country, it should damn well work in the isolated communities, in a different form.

MR. McCALLUM: I would agree with you that there must be some way that we could get them to adapt, modify and review existing programs. Having had some experience in trying to get them to modify, adapt or review, the R & R program, the rural and remote, so that it is more applicable in the North, and having found out the kind of modification they have done to make it better applicable to people in the North -- I don't know if we are going to get anywhere with it.

MC. McLELLAN: One parting comment. I would suggest that perhaps the first step to getting these reviews and negotiations going would be to be able to speak with somebody within the corporation who recognizes the problem and who is willing to try to do something about them. I speak of the federal program. First of all you have to have somebody who is sympathetic to the needs of the people. If there is no sympathy there will not be any negotiations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just want to make a short comment. I mentioned we would certainly take your view into consideration and one of them was built into the system where we can share some information. It was brought to our attention in some remote areas, whether it was just a dream or whatever, but they wanted some information on home-ownership. They are waiting up to two years even to get a little pamphlet. I am going to seriously consider that recommendation to share information on anything that they have requested because it does not take too much time or manpower to deliver that kind of information. That is what I meant by saying that they are having problems communicating, maybe because of the English or whatever.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: I like the idea of co-ops and this is the first time we have heard anything about a housing coop and it deserves some attention from our committee to look at how housing co-ops could work. I will be looking at this more closely as maybe part of the answer to the housing problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. For the closing remarks I will speak Inuktitut. (Translation) I would like to thank the representatives from the Hillside Housing Co-op. I really like the co-op idea and the presentation was very interesting. But I have a small disagreement. This program is not implemented in smaller communities. I like your program, I like the designs. I think you know there are different houses for different communities and you are experienced in this. While we were on our tour people also brought up the fact of the climate. We will certainly consider this in the future and we will use all our authority to put the recommendations into a reality. I thank you for coming here. I would like to meet with the special committee for awhile.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

FROBISHER BAY, JUNE 12, 1984

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk):** My name is Ludy Pudluk, MLA for High Arctic. The Special Committee on Housing consists of six MLAs and four alternate MLAs. We were appointed by the Legislative Assembly in February 1984, to investigate the concerns that people in the communities have about housing. The committee will also review the operations of the NWT Housing Corporation. My colleagues are: John T'Seleie, elected Member for Sahtu; Arnold McCallum, elected Member for Slave River, he is also the co-chairman of this special committee; Eliza Lawrence, from Tu Nedhe; Red Pedersen from Kitikmeot West, he is recognized in some of the communities and Joe Arlooktoo, MLA for Baffin South. We also have three interpreters, one is absent at the present time. Jaypole Akeegoak is from Grise Fiord; Malley Curley is from Frobisher Bay. The support staff who is coordinating the hearings is Penny Amund. Also we have alternate Members, if any Member of the special committee cannot attend the hearings. The first one is Michael Angottitauruy for Kitikmeot East and Mike Ballantyne for Yellowknife North.

The committee will hold public hearings in 10 Baffin communities this month. In the next six months about 40 communities will be visited. The NWT Housing Corporation will also be reviewed by the committee. An interim report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this fall. The final report will contain recommendations based on the community hearings and the Housing Corporation review. It is the will of the committee that this will lead to improvements in housing at the community level. This is the first step to find out what people would like to see happen with housing. Of course it will not be possible to make any promises about what the committee will be able to do. The committee has to consider the housing situation throughout the NWT and how where the money would come from. The committee has a responsibility to make sure that the recommendations it makes are realistic and positive, recommendations that would solve some of the major problems that we are now dealing with. Therefore we welcome your suggestions, improvements and encourage you to share your ideas with us.

For the benefit of the MLAs from the West, somebody from the West will be talking about their concerns in their communities and we would like to hear the tenants here and also how they are dealt with by the NWTHC. If you would like to speak, please step up to the microphone, table and what you say will be recorded. You will be recorded on tape. Please tell us for the record. The interpreters will translate what you say simultaneously. Please talk more than normally so the interpreters will be able to catch up. The headsets are fragile so please be careful with them, please leave them on your chair.

We are not from the Housing Corporation and we are not working for the government. We are more than willing to hear your concerns. We cannot answer questions now. Your questions should be directed to the Housing Corporation. We are representing the NWT as a whole. Your concerns and concerns will assist us. Do not be afraid to speak up. Your concerns will assist in the writing of our report. I will now ask the western delegate to speak. Mr. McCallum.

**MR. McCALLUM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to indicate to you how appreciative we are to have you come out tonight. I would like to say as well a thank you to the administration in particular the principal, Mr. Farrow, for the hospitality and the arrangements that have been made here tonight and all day, in fact, because we have met with different groups already this morning and this afternoon.

Many years ago there had been demands to look into the total operation of housing within the NWT and accumulated with a motion by the two people to my immediate right in the last session, Mr. Pudluk and Mrs. Lawrence, to get something going and ask about how housing operates in the NWT. That is the reason why we are here tonight.



We are here to listen to your concerns. We have no answers as yet to what those concerns and problems may be. As people come up to speak to us, various Members may question the speakers as to what they may say. The total issue of housing is a very complex one. There are many views from a great number of people. We are not here to criticize the corporation or any group or any individual. We truly appreciate and will appreciate hearing your concerns and views. I would simply want to reiterate what Ludy Pudluk has said about when you come to the microphone, because of the recordings, to identify yourself and speak slowly in either English or Inuktitut. We want your views and thank you very much for being here tonight and we look forward to the concerns you may have. With that we can begin hearing from people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): (Translation) Is there any further comments from the special committee? Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the people from Frobisher Bay. I was not expecting this many people. I heard there may not be too many people and we are pleased with the turnout. I would like to stress that any person may speak and you will be recorded. I know there are some concerns with the housing association.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank everyone for inviting us tonight. It is very important for us to hear everyone's views and concerns so we can make good recommendations to the Legislative Assembly when we sit in November. As elected Members, I have high hopes that any recommendations that we make to the Assembly will be seriously considered. In my area we have similar problems, although we encourage a lot of individuals to own their own home because we have logs in our area. At one time a lot of people owned their own homes and were very proud of it. When the Housing came into the Territories they encouraged people to move into the low rental housing for two dollars a month, and over a period of time said that they would own the home. That was not the case. Changes of government, policies, individuals, people in government and caused some concern to individuals -- rent is too high. People who owned their own homes, the homes were destroyed so they were unable to move back into their own house even if they wanted to.

Because of that a lot of problems were created at the community level. I lived with the problem for many years. So we established a special committee to look into some of these problems and hopefully we will make some changes. I would like to encourage everyone to express their views. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Since the special committee has no more comments, please feel free to come and speak. Mr. Michael.

MR. MIKE MICHAEL: I have some comments on the housing association. The housing association in Frobisher, a lot of Inuit disagree with their operations. The families are having problems. I do not have much of a problem myself, the only problem I have is that there are large families in one house and they have problems amongst each other. This is a great concern to me. There are some families that have children and when they grow up they are still living with their parents and they are taking drugs. So it creates problems because there are too many people in one house. For that reason a lot of us are disappointed. Me and my wife have problems because we have a large family and are all in one house.

If you try to tell this to the housing association they will just tell you that there are no houses available. I do not know how many families have been moved to different houses, this is what is happening in Frobisher. This is one thing I am not too happy about. I do not think there should be more than one family in one house. When the young ones start drinking they get dangerous to the head of the household. Since you are here to hear our views, I would be very happy for the other people to hear about this. I would like something done about this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) This year the housing association board of directors was dismantled because they were told that they were told that they cannot run the housing association.

MR. MIKE MICHAEL: I do not quite understand. I know where the housing association office is, I thought it was still there, I did not realize that it ceased to be the board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Don't hesitate to voice your concerns.

MR. TREVOR POLLITT: I am the hospital administrator. I am mainly here at the concern of the staff. Prior to the transfer of the hospital in December 1982, the hospital was operated by the federal government. It was not the policy of the federal government to give housing to local hires. Following the transfer in December 1982, to the GNWT, an expectation was placed on the hospital to provide housing which the board of management actually has 49 units although we do have a staff of 86 plus the contract service, making a total of 100 people. As you know most of the staff in the hospital are technical staff, so one of the problems is that we have to recruit most of our people for the hospital from down South. Despite the fact there are 49 units, there must be over 56 or more positions which we must recruit from down South to operate the hospital. At the time of the transfer they were building some new houses and based on the amount of federal employees, the hospital would, if the transfer of the houses had taken place before the transfer of the hospital, been entitled to about 10 of those new units.

We have taken this case as far as Paul Cosgrove, the Minister of Housing. He claims we are now a commercial venture -- overnight we have become a commercial venture and are no longer entitled to those houses. He has also stated that if there were any surplus federal houses in Frobisher Bay that the hospital should have the first choice.

One of my main concerns is, we are trying to develop a policy of recruiting more Inuit staff, but we cannot offer them housing, even if we were to recruit from outside Frobisher Bay from the communities within Baffin. It is not that we wish to deprive the local people of staff housing but it is just that they will never be available because we have to recruit so many people from the South. I just wanted to make that quite clear, that this is a problem as far as employing staff.

The flexibility with housing depends on whether a nurse is married to an RCMP officer. In that case we do not have to provide the housing. But this does put restraints upon your selection of staff, married or single, because of the availability of units. That is my main concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: You mentioned the transfer in 1982. When they transferred the hospital are you telling us they did not transfer the accommodation, housing?

MR. TREVOR POLLITT: They transferred 49 units, we have a staff of 86. We also provide housing for the private physicians, otherwise you would not have private physicians. These are some of the problems we inherited. We do not mind providing housing because we realize it is an essential service. To be realistic, there is just not enough housing and the people it is hitting most are the local people because we can never give them housing because we recruit so many people from the South to fill essential jobs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. McCallum.

MR. McCALLUM: I would just like to clarify something. You are saying that you provide housing for the private physicians?

MR. TREVOR POLLITT: Mr. Chairman, at the time of the transfer, we inherited the status quo. Housing was provided to the local physicians. Since that time one of the physicians has built his own unit. This does deter anyone from setting up private practice, either dentists or doctors or any other professional staff, is the question of availability of houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any further questions? Any more presentations?

MR. RICK HAMBURG: My wife and I have worked and lived in the Baffin Region for 16 years, seven of these in Frobisher Bay. I enjoy the work I do very much and consider the Baffin Region my home. My family and I would like very much to have and own our own home in Frobisher Bay. However we are not quite prepared to build a new house. We have instead patiently waited for what we consider an existing house to appear for sale. The territorial government, for good reason, has encouraged home-ownership and have even provided a program whereby they offer to buy back a privately owned home at 90 per cent of their assessed value. Were I a house owner or planning to build a home, I would applaud this incentive to territorial government. But I am not a house owner, I am a house buyer. I am the other side of the pair required to establish a market for homes. I am however experiencing problems attempting to become a house owner. I cannot find a commercial lending institute to finance a mortgage for a house on the government buy-back program, at least not in the Eastern Arctic.

Commercial lending institutes willing to mortgage a house in the Baffin Region, are hard to come by. About the only one available to average folks is CMHC. However the one important rule by which CMHC base their decision on whether or not to insure loans for houses is that the value must be assessed by CMHC. Enter the government buy-back program and the territorial government's assessed value of the same house. CMHC's assessed value is one-third lower than the territorial government's assessed value. Naturally a house owner will prefer the higher price and permit the government to purchase back the house. As a potential house buyer however, I am then forced to compete with the territorial government's buy-back program. I have to come up with a down payment and then apply to CMHC for the remainder that is based on CMHC assessed value they will approve a loan however not for the price one-third higher than their own assessed value.

Therefore when I applied for a home, CMHC refused to approve my loan although I was able to meet their required formula for financing. The reason CMHC refused to finance me is because their assessed value was considerably lower than the territorial government one. Now in order to obtain financing, I must raise a down payment that no Baffin average wage earner could ever afford to make. I cannot purchase the house from the government afterwards either because I cannot get CMHC financing. I am into a Catch-22 area that I cannot get out of.

In my case I am seeking assistance to my problem from this committee. Can they do anything for me? The numbers of territorial employees building their own homes is increasing. They will expect to be included in the territorial governments buy-back program. However as long as CMHC continues to assess the value of these houses in the Eastern Arctic, lower than the territorial government, there will be no one who can afford to purchase them.

In the case then for future buyers of these buy-back territorial houses, I would ask the committee to look into solving the discrepancy between territorial government assessments and CMHC assessments and come up with a compatible assessment that both can live with and where an average buyer can afford the house. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee?

MR. McCALLUM: Can I just ask, does the CMHC assessment deal only with private homes that may now be available or are you referring as well to the possibility of buying existing housing? Are you living now in a staff house?

MR. RICK HAMBURG: I am living now in a staff house, yes.

MR. McCALLUM: If there was a policy of the GNWT to make staff housing available, do you believe you will have the same problem with assessment for mortgage purposes?

MR. RICK HAMBURG: Going by present experiences, I probably would. This particular problem that I am experiencing, is a house owned by a territorial government employee in his own home and is eligible and is on the territorial buy-back program.

MR. McCALLUM: We need an update on the territorial buy-back policy. There is only one other lending institution in town and that is the Royal Bank, is that correct? Yes. Have you tried with the Royal Bank and have you received a refusal?

MR. RICK HAMBURG: In order to get CMHC housing, you require a first refusal. The Royal Bank now provides mortgages but only for CMHC approved housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Hamburg.

MRS. HEIDI HAMBURG: I am the other half of this buying team. Something I would like to make clear is that if we were buying a new house we would have advantages because of being long-term government employees. If we were buying a former staff house we would have one per cent per year of service. As things are, buying an existing house which does not presently belong to the government, we have no advantage, even though between us we have 31 years of service. We were working here since 1968. We were working in Baffin before the territorial government was working in Baffin. It is our home. But we were willing to deal with that, we were willing to deal with not having an advantage. What seems quite unfair is that this situation has put us in a big disadvantage. The house was assessed by the territorial government, of course we made out bid according to that, then we made arrangements for financing, not expecting any hitches along the way at all. Then CMHC assessed the house at 35 per cent less than the government assessor.

Now we may bomb out on this, we may never get the house that we love, but the same thing is going to happen to everybody else in the same situation who tries to buy a private house when there are separate assessors doing it. I would like to make a suggestion to the committee that they come up with some arrangement that they can propose whereby either these assessments are done together with CMHC and a government representative and they arrive at a compromise price, which is it. Or that the territorial government contract CMHC or visa versa and have one assessment. Otherwise anyone in the future is going to have exactly the same stone wall put up in front of them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Where do you work and where are you from? I think I got lost somewhere along the line and I would like to be clear on that.

MR. RICK HAMBURG: From Frobisher Bay. I am employed by the GNWT, Tourism and Parks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I got lost along the way too. I do not have my own translator. Are you in government housing now?

MR. RICK HAMBURG: We are living in a government rented house now. We rent from the government. The house belongs to the government.

MRS. HEIDI HAMBURG: It is not the one we want to buy. That is a private one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arnaituq Ipellie.

MR. ARNAITUQ IPELLIE: (Translation) I have been living here since 1944. I worked for the government, at the present time I work for DPW as a helper for the electricians. I am not trained nor do I have an education but I am working for the government because I am a good worker. I have a concern in the community, even though I have been allowed to have a home here, my salary has to have a maximum, I cannot get a higher wage because I am not educated. The government has too much concern whether a person has an education or not and for that reason they cannot increase the salary and they have a maximum. We do not have a maximum scale for paying rent but we have one for salary. So I feel there should be a maximum on rent too because it is very high. This is not only about me, there are some other Inuit who are like that too. I am quite old now so I will not be employed for too long.

The houses in the North are very small and the floor is touching the gravel and they have no basement where you can store things. I feel they should be built higher from the ground and we would have room to store our skidoos because we are going to live here for a long time. Some of our things are being stolen because of the small storage outside the house. The rent is high so a man should have storage space for his equipment. The small buildings outside our house are not good enough because things get stolen. We need more storage space. Sometimes it is very difficult to sleep because we have to guard our things that are outside our building. People are stealing or breaking our hunting equipment. I would like to stress this concern to the MLAs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any questions. Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) We have visited a number of communities and some complained that the houses were too high. People from the Central Arctic were saying they were too high and you are saying they should be higher. Would you not have a problem if the houses were too high?

MR. ARNAITUQ IPELLIE: (Translation) I am living in government housing and it is very high. I can stand inside -- if it is built higher, I can store my equipment under the building. My house is built adequately and it is warm. The storage space is too high.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Some communities are saying their houses are too high. Do you mind if they are built high.

MR. ARNAITUQ IPELLIE: (Translation) We need them higher from the ground so there is more area. We have to listen to the authorities. They are trying to build them higher for more storage space.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): We came here to listen about the Housing Corporation's buildings. Not only the staff housing.

MR. BILL BARNIE: I am a private home-owner. I have been listening to a lot of people speak tonight and I have heard two main complaints. One main complaint is the quality of public housing. The other complaint could be generalized as just a basic lack of a vacancy rate in Frobisher Bay. I have some views on public housing. I think there are certain limitations on public housing and they contribute to the vacancy rate.

If you want to get public housing in Frobisher Bay, there is no needs test. Most people view it as a right. I find it remarkable that in a government like the HWT's with very limited funds, this government is also trying to house its entire population. When this task is left in the hands of the government, the quality of housing can only be adequate and the quantity of housing likewise can only be adequate. The government should not be expected to build excess housing in case someone may need it. If the government is going to continue to provide all the housing needs in the North, there will always be a lag in quantity and quality.

I suggest to you that there is a gap in housing in the North and there is only one section that can fill that gap and that is the private sector. But they are prevented from doing it because in the North there is a hidden economy. The North is laced with subsidies, low rents, it is a virtual buried economy that is not allowed to surface. It is beyond the grasp of the entrepreneur. If you happen to be maybe a developer in the good graces of certain government officials, you may get to put up an apartment building and provide low rents and total occupancy rates and people will move in at a very low rate. Where is the incentive for someone to invest in an apartment building in Frobisher Bay when the rents that are charged do not even pay the costs of building that structure?

I would suggest to you that the real solution of the housing problem in the North is to strive to achieve a real economy where whenever possible, real rents are charged and real salaries are paid. Today we have subsidies that are tax free for certain sections of the society and exempt to others unless you happen to have a job that provides certain tax free subsidies. You have housing subsidies for certain people and not to others. We have a very false economy. We have a privileged class and not so privileged class. The subsidies are a denial of the real costs in the North. It is a pretense contrived by transients for transients. We are stuck with an economy that was developed years ago by people who probably never even came here. We are stuck with an economy that was designed for civil servants who were only going to stay here for one or two years.

Where else in Canada would you go where your employer would say to you, "Well here is your salary and here is a little bit to go see grandma and here is a little bit for your house, and here is a little bit to go on vacation." But if you stay here and you retire, all you are going to get is a fraction of your basic salary. Where else in Canada would you go and get that? Where else would you tolerate it? I would suggest to you that buying a house is a very, very long term commitment and things like pensions and the economy and the long-term prospects of the community are very real concerns when you are buying a house. Why buy a house in Frobisher Bay if you are only going to get a fraction of a fraction of your house when you retire?

I would suggest that the solution to the problem of housing in Frobisher Bay is to pay real salaries, charge real rents and be prepared for a period of adjustment. There are going to be certain people who criticize that kind of move -- small business, who always lag behind a major shift like that. I do not deny the need for public housing, there will always be severe need for public housing in the North, but it should be allocated to people who really need it, not people who are quite capable of providing their own housing. And if the subsidies paid those people, if they are made really available, they would not be living in staff housing or public housing. You have your vacancy rate.

Finally I would like to say that two of the main benefits of private home-ownership in the North are a sense of pride in what you are and what you are doing and it also results in responsible government because you start to care about the way money is spent. You start to care about the way your elected officials spend your money and what they decide to do and you become involved. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any questions from the special committee?

MR. McCALLUM: I would like to know how you would solve the problem of trying to purchase a house if you cannot get financial assistance from a lending institution

MR. BILL BARNIE: Problems that have been discussed earlier tonight are not unusual when there is a new trend happening in this area. The values have yet to be determined by certain lending institutions. But I know how much it costs to build a house here, as does the government. No one should suggest that you should be able to buy a house cheap. It costs a considerable amount of money to own a home in Frobisher Bay and public housing is there to provide housing for people who cannot do that. What I am saying is those that can, should.

MR. McCALLUM: Well I do not think the situation is peculiar to the North. I think it costs money to own or build your own home regardless of where you are because of the varying economic conditions in different parts of the country. I just have one more question...

MR. BILL BARNIE: Might I make one suggestion. If the territorial government, instead of buying houses and giving them away for virtually no rent at all, they would be better off to maybe start providing financing to people who want to buy their own houses and make money at it.

MR. McCALLUM: I thank you for that comment. I just have one other question if you don't mind. And it may hit close home here in Frobisher Bay. What are your feelings of the co-operative here in Frobisher?

MR. BILL BARNIE: The co-op project in town was a very unique experience for a lot of people. It is going to fill a gap there for needed accommodation, it takes the burden off the territorial government. I do not think the territorial governments prime function should be a landlord. I really disagree with that. I see the budgets in Education, Social Services, a lot of very important areas being slashed annually and yet the money going into housing increasing all the time and I think that is wrong. The co-op housing program is another avenue that is saving the government a lot of money and removing that burden from government. However, I do not think that the future is there. You can never own your home, it is still rent. I think it is more convenient for the territorial government than it is for those living in them, as they will find out later on.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Any more questions or presentations?

MRS. DONNA BELL: This is my 18th year in the North but I have only lived in Frobisher Bay for two and one-half years. I could sit here and try and tell you how I have tried to get housing for the last two years, I wrote it all down and I would like to present it to you. I am sure that many other people have had the same problems that I have had and there really isn't any need to go into them. I have been looking for two years. So far I have done everything, it is all in this letter.

MR. McCALLUM: We would appreciate getting your letter but can we not prevail upon you to...

MRS. DONNA BELL: No. If I was by myself -- I am a bit shy. It just tells of some of the places I have lived, some of the things that have happened to me, sleeping on couches, on floors, being woken up at 2:00 o'clock and have to be to work at 5:30. Being kept awake because people are partying, playing records. I have had sexual harassment in one of the homes I stayed at. I have been kicked out in the middle of the night when they come home drunk and in the morning they cannot remember, I am not there, so where am I? Those nights I have walked the streets. I have stayed in hotel rooms the odd times. I have been advised by people of what to do, I have bothered the housing authority every day, which I haven't done because I don't believe there is any need because they know I need housing.

The new forms that have come out are very interesting, they want to come and see where I live. I do not have an address, I am looking after somebody's house now. Hopefully I will be able to get another place to look after for the summer or I will prevail on some of my friends for their chesterfield or their floor again. I am working, not at a job that I am trained for, but I am working. I am not asking anybody to pay my rent, I am perfectly capable of paying rent. I am also separated from my family because there is no housing for two of my children, five of them are grown up. I had one of them here twice and I had to send her back to my married daughter because there was too hard on her and on me.

You can have friends for only so long when you bother them for a place to stay. I could apply for a job with the government, I am a qualified secretary and was one for 17 years. There is no housing. You have clothes in four or five different places and sometimes you cannot remember where the good ones are and the bad ones, you are using carrying with you to change from day to day. I

have been asked, every time I have approached anybody about housing -- I don't believe I have to tell them why I came here, Canada is a free country. I can live where I want. but I have lived in the North since 1967, always in an isolated community and five of my seven children are still living in the North. Two daughters are married and one son is single, they live in government housing. One of those daughters are keeping my two children which are 10 and 11. This still is not going to get me a house in Frobisher Bay. Everybody else has problems.

These new forms really made me angry. There are three phases to it, you get a house maybe in a year, three years and five years. The streets get very cold in the wintertime when you are walking. Pretty soon you can put a tent up in the hills. But this is not just my problem, it is a lot of people's problem. There is new housing going up but that will not be finished for a couple of years. I think that everybody is trying to do something, in my case nothing has happened yet. Hopefully it will. There is more in here that is really private and I do not want to repeat it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCALLUM): Before I ask if there are any questions. These new forms of which you speak, from whom do they come?

MRS. DONNA BELL: From the housing association board of trustees. I asked them if the time that I had already been on the list if that would go back -- it was still two years ago that I applied. On the form they want to know your income, they want to know that you can't get housing with your employers. They want to know where you live, so that they can look at the conditions. They are very good forms, I have nothing against them. They want to come and inspect where you are living to see if they conditions are bad, good or indifferent. They said on the forms that it would be a month before you knew how they classed you. I took my form in and they told me it would be two or three months. So within two or three months I will know where I am on the list.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Any questions from the Members of the committee? I would like to say I appreciate your comments. It may be difficult at times to explain individual situations but that is what we are here for and I appreciate your candidness.

MRS. DONNA BELL: I am not alone. I presented my case but there are other people in the same situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Go ahead sir.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) I do not think you are prepared for what I am going to say. But we are here as older people to bring things up, we have lived for a long, long time. We need assistance. I would like to speak on behalf of the elder people. I would like to say we appreciate the audience, we as elder people say that when we had some houses beside the correctional centre, we had to climb away up there. I would like the housing association to take a note of that. We get tired walking up the hill, perhaps we can be moved to a better part of town. I am not the only one that is concerned about that. It is all the elder people. We are not as active as younger people. I would like the committee to consider this. I have tried to bring this up to the Housing Corporation. I get tired going home. When I approached the corporation or the association they have not listened to our concerns. The elders need assistance on our problems. We should get some help from the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Anyone else?

MRS. MONICA CONNOLLY: I am a home-owner and a small business person. For 10 years I lived in housing association housing here and last year I bought the house and joined it on to my new husband's house and we are busy refurbishing it right now. I want to talk a bit because I am not government staff. I think I have a lot of experience with what the rest of us -- the Inuit people, the whites who are not government staff -- have to put up with. Frankly for many years it has made me a little angry to hear government staff complaining about anything. While I admit they have some complaints, nonetheless they get the best housing, the least crowded housing, the best incentives to build their own housing. I saw a film on Haiti in which government go the best the rest of the people got the least and everyone thought it was a scandal. Well the difference isn't as great here as it is with Haiti, but it is the same thing. The GNWT is operating in Frobisher Bay two separate systems and their employees are getting the cream.

So I want to tell you a bit of how it is to not work for the government and how it is to run a business. If we offered our staff the \$750 a month that government people get to supply their own housing we would have spent more than twice our profit of last year. In other words for a small business it is not possible to subsidize housing. In preparation for coming to this meeting, I talked to a banker, I talked my financial consultant, I talked to a builder. Our business is healthy but there is no way we are in a position to build housing. We are in a position to subsidize housing for one or two people if we can find houses at low rents. But there is no way that a small business like ours can build housing.

Now for the past 10 years or so, I cannot remember a time when we have not had problems on our staff with housing, young guys just entering the workforce -- we try to enter locally as much as possible -- sleeping on the floor in our darkroom, sleeping on the desks, sleeping in a tent outside the office door because they did not have a home of their own. They either had drunks in their house so they preferred to live in a tent or a darkroom, or their house was overcrowded, they had either had a fight with their mother and the couch was no longer available to them. I am not exaggerating. The two groups that seem to suffer the most are white singles that come from the South to fill jobs that cannot be filled up here because the skills have not yet been developed -- they have almost nowhere to go, they have no relatives that they can impose on, and young single Inuit, passed the age of being ready to share a bedroom with two brothers. People who ought to have, at very least, a room of their own, and possibly a house of their own. These people are really at the bottom of the list.

There is an incredible waiting list here, all things considered. I think they figure about 70 names or more on the waiting list, representing roughly 150 to 200 people. What they are waiting for isn't always that great either. Some of the new houses are fine. The 10 years that I lived in a northern rental house, I never had hot water. The first house did not have a bathtub. I put one in, put a board over it threw some cushions over top and it looked like a couch. If I wanted a bath, I threw everybody out, boiled water and filled the bathtub. The second house I owned was larger, I got it because I offered to help fix it up, it had been damaged in a fire and there was no money to fix it. In that house I got cold running water in the bathtub because I arranged it that way. I only had to boil hot water and I could fill the bathtub.

It is not funny, really. There are still people living in government supplied housing with inadequate housing but more than that, there are people living in overcrowded houses and people not really living in houses at all, just drifting from relative to relative. "Uncle Joe can stand me more a couple of weeks and then I will go and live with my sister for a couple of more weeks. I will sleep on my buddies couch." That is no way to live and it is particularly irritating when you see another large percentage of the town living in uncrowded housing.. The hospital complains that it does not have enough housing for its staff but government housing is not allowed to become overcrowded. You cannot have second cousins living with you. You are allowed to have your immediate family and that is it.

There is a home-owner subsidy. I got a subsidy when I bought a home mainly because I bought my 5-12 and I could get it for \$1000. The thing is 20 years old, no plumbing, it needs some rewiring. A lot of what was fixed up in it, I did myself. If I wanted to build a new house, I doubt very much if my husband and I could afford a mortgage, I am not certain, since we both happen to have access to the 5-12's.

First of all we need more houses. We have been rehabing a lot in Frubisher. That is not the answer. People like my husband and I, people like some of my employees, are the ones who should rehab. Sell off the old houses and let people with entrepreneurial spirit rehab, we can do it cheaper because we put in sweat equity. We will turn our two 5-12's into quite a nice house and it won't cost us more than \$20,000 because we have volunteer labour, because we do creative scrounging. I don't think you could do it for that commercially. Sell off those houses and replace them. They get rid of houses in Frubisher and they haven't been replacing them. We have to have more housing and I think that the government is in a better position that a lot of private citizens to supply the new houses. We have to have equitable universal programs. Some of this by the way, you will get in an editorial this week -- not all of this.

It was understandable 20 years ago when government staff came here, you couldn't ask somebody coming from the South, a doctor or a teacher, to live in an igloo, a hammock, a tent, it was unreasonable, you did need separate programs then. But this is a real place now, it is part of



mainstream Canada. If the living conditions are not fit for civil servants, they are not fit for everybody. The rest of us deserve decent homes at decent prices. Although I think it was a radical thing to do, I think it was suggested by the 1972 task force on housing to get all the programs under one roof, it is going to take time but get them under one roof. This is really important in a place like Frobisher which may become the capital of Nunavut or if it doesn't, we will at least become an important regional centre where there is going to be more jobs. If they don't get the housing for people together there will be a lot more resentment.

I think another thing you must remember is that when we say there is no housing, a very high occupancy rate, a low vacancy rate, this is not like in Vancouver or Toronto. Places like that, if there is a low vacancy rate, what it means is not that you live on the street, it means you live a few miles out and have to commute in, instead of getting a nice home close to your work. There isn't any place 20 miles out here, the next town is 100 miles away. If you can't get a home in Frobisher Bay, you haven't got a home. You can't use Canada-wide vacancy rates as comparison, if there isn't a place for people to live, there isn't a place for people to live and they end up on couches, in tents, what have you.

I think that probably over the 13 years I have been here, housing has been consistently in the top three problems facing people in Frobisher Bay. It has contributed to others. It has contributed to the lack of education because kids cannot sleep because if there is a party game going on in the room you are trying to sleep in, you don't go to school. It has contributed to unemployment, because if there is a party game going on in the same room, you don't get up and go to work in the morning. It has contributed to the alcohol problems because if you feel lousy about the place you live you go and try to drown your sorrows -- the drug problems. The kids who have dropped out of school and are now trying to get themselves into the workforce have no incentive because even if they get a job if they are entry level, chances are they are going to take a year or so of training before they can get a job that supplies housing. So what are they going to do. They get a job and it does not provide them with a decent place to live, so why bother, somebody will feed them.

I think that housing has to be given a higher priority than it has been given. As I said, I think it has to be equitable. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Thank you. Any more speakers?

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: I am the secretary manager for the housing association in Cape Dorset. The concerns that I would like to express are concerns voiced by my board of directors and problems that I experience daily. Although there are many examples, the general problem that seems to cause a number of problems is a lack of communication. We have heard several problems mentioned tonight concerning maintenance and so on. I have also heard concerns mentioned by other housing associations which involve the fact that there is very little input from the associations into programs conceived by the corporation. I think both of these problems stem from the fact that with no output, there is no input. For example, if there is money available for special programs in maintenance, there is a problem that there is very poor maintenance in the community, there is not very many ways for the community to have input about their problems in maintenance and receive available funding to help those problems.

A number of times our communities do not know what to ask for to solve their problems because they do not know what is available to help them solve their problems. I think communication should be based on more of a two-way system, where all the information from the communities is already, in one way or another, being sent to the corporation. We receive very little information before a decision is being made. That information is not usually available. As I see it there is a number of different solutions and there is probably a number of solutions I have not seen myself.

One solution to a lack of communication could be, we also receive the minutes of board meetings of the Housing Corporation. We send our meetings into the corporation informing them of what our objectives are and what we are trying to achieve. There is very little output on what the Housing Corporation objectives are, so it is very hard for us to implement those objectives or understand those objectives. We did at one time, have a form for discussing all the various communities concerns, it was a housing federation. At this time there is no way for all the communities to communicate with each other. A concerned voice by one community, carries one-thirteenth of the weight voiced by 13 communities. It also works both ways. The objectives of the Housing Corporation, it is very hard for the association to meet those concerns or objectives when they have no forum to discuss or understand those objectives.

There are many problems that all the communities have, they differ and are the same. But so far as I can see most of the problems hinge on a lack of output which creates a lack of input. The associations role in housing, because they are elected by the members of the association, they have a very important role where they have to represent the corporation and their objectives as well as represent the tenants and their concerns. To be able to join these two properly and do a good job of both, more information is needed, a lot more information, and a forum to discuss this information with the people that deal with it daily and have to implement it. These two concerns need a lot of discussion and some implementation.

These are concerns voiced by my board of directors who you will be meeting tomorrow night. As well as problems and concerns experienced by myself daily in administering housing associations. Although these concerns come from the administration and board of directors, in the long run they directly affect the tenants of the association and their dissatisfaction with problems in housing. I did not really want to get too specific with the problems, maintenance and so on are a few things. But a general problem that creates other problems is a lack of communication and therefore a lack of input. That is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know he is my constituent from Cape Dorset. Are you reporting for the community of Cape Dorset? If you are maybe we will not have to go there.

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: As I said, I am mostly voicing the concerns of the board of directors and myself, not directly the tenants. Decisions made on these concerns will of course affect the tenants but I believe the tenants and association members should also be listened to with their particular problems.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) There are problems in Cape Dorset so you will probably want to go there and find out the problems first hand.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard that same story about no communication between the corporation and district office many times. It is a concern of just about every community that we have visited up until now. Tomorrow we will go to Cape Dorset to meet with the public. Did you say you are working for the housing association?

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: I am the secretary manager.

MRS. LAWRENCE: So you are dealing with specific problems every day. You are not getting the proper communication you require.

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: Daily matters, montly matters, yearly matters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pudluk): Mr. Peter.

MR. MARKOSIE PETER: (Translation) I am from Apex. I have been living in Apex for 28 years but I have been in Frobisher since I was a kid. The kabloona hasn't beat me my staying in Frobisher yet. I have some rights regarding the years I have been here. I have a house in Apex before they built any new houses. If I were to ask the government to build me a house they would probably never approve it. Therefore I asked, when we had a conference here at the high school, to see if I could get subsidy for fuel and electricity. I do not know if there is any subsidies for gasoline, people I work for pay for my fuel. The Inuit used to lack houses and the situation is still like that today. We have been hearing a lot of kabloona say that there are still some vacant houses in Frobisher and I don't know who will move into the new houses that are being built right now. Since I do not work for DPW anymore, I do not know this information.

When I was one of the board members for the housing association, according to the rules of the housing association I was taken off the board, because I am not renting one of their houses anymore. So, because I was kicked out I have not helped them in any way. When the Housing Corporation was in town, they kept saying the houses were too expensive to run. The houses would not be using so much fuel if they were energy efficient. All that I have said is true.

I have some thoughts about the Legislative Assembly. I think the representatives should try and find out more information from the communities on this situation, because the Inuit and the Kabloona do not live the same way. We the Inuit are trying to reach the same goals but we are treated differently and the fundings that are provided by the community are not understood by the community members. So I would like our elected Members to find out more about these moneys available because there is alot of unemployment. You are probably not dealing with the subject that I am talking about, however the funding and also the work that should be available, should be dealt with and there should also be hearings on these two matters, unemployment and funding that should be available.

There should also be equality for different cultures. I would just like to tell a brief story which is true. My fellow white people who are living in my same community, if they are not trying to make the money for themselves they should give it to the churches, that way they will be more wealthier. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you very much. Before I ask if there are any questions or comments of the witnesses, I would just like to indicate that Mr. Pudluk had to leave the meeting because of a personal problem back home in Resolute and had to catch a plane. He sends his regrets and asks for your indulgence. He received a phone call about a personal problem that he had to attend too tonight. Are there any questions from the committee? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, now that they have established a board of trustees in Frobisher Bay, would that be better for the town of Frobisher Bay than when they had the housing association?

MR. MARKOSIE PETER: (Translation) I do not know too much about that area. But I know for sure that there is a shortage of housing.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Are there any further questions? Thank you. Mr. Joanase Akumalik.

MR. JOANASIE AKUMALIK: I am very sorry that I was not able to present any of my views when you the committee were in Clyde River, that is where I am from. I feel that I should speak on behalf of the young people. First of all I would like to send our gratitude to you, the committee. I really appreciate listening to these hearings and I feel that I am learning a lot.

I just want the people to know how the younger people feel, because it is very hard sometimes. First of all I will elaborate on the youth's behalf of the Baffin Region. For a young person, it is sometimes hard to live like any other person, but when it comes to housing it is very hard when the Housing Corporation does not consider six months period of time, which I had to face.

When I moved to Clyde River, the housing association overlooked the six month period which I am eligible for. If they do not recognize that I have not lived there for more than six months the housing association cannot have any power in order to change the operating policies because they are not told about these operating policies. So I moved into a house within two months, I should have gotten my house after six months.

I have visited the communities with the special committee on housing and I have learned that the housing association has no authority or power within the communities. All of the communities from Grise Fiord to Frobisher say that there housing associations have no power. So I will criticize the NWT Housing Corporation. The young people should be considered too because they have no power. Since 1970, this is the second time that the MLAs have formed a special committee.

Perhaps for the English speaking people, I will elaborate on the Legislative Assembly. This has been the second time I have experienced special committees. First of all there was a special committee on Education and now we have a special committee on housing. Are we also going to have a special committee on alcohol and drugs? I do not agree when there are too many special committees. There are too many committees and us young people want to run and operate like the white people. We are young and restless. These are my comments. I would like you the committee to take time to listen to us. I know Mr. T'Seleie and Mr. Angottitauruq have the same problems in their regions.

Regarding housing, I am comfortable with my match box, I pay \$32 a month for rent. If I get a good job, how much will I start paying? We do not know, it may be 30 per cent, 100 per cent or 10 per cent of the rent scale. Therefore, please consider the youth, the elders and the restless. I would like to thank you for hearing my views.

MR. BALLANTYNE: It is very good that we hear from the youth, because in the very near future we are going to have to find housing for more and more youth, so, I think it is very worth-while that you speak to us Joanasie. The question that I would like to ask you as a youth, young and restless, I am older and still restless, so I sympathize. Would you like to live in apartment units?

MR. JOANASIE AKUMALIK: No, thank you.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Okay, that answers that question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Answer a question.

MR. JOANASIE AKUMALIK: For supplementary answer to Mr. Ballantyne. I have lived in an apartment building for a couple of years in Frobisher Bay so then I know now some people feel good about living in Frobisher Bay that they have privacy. Some older people are not comfortable with it. If we could have an apartment building in Clyde River, I don't know where you could set that up, but we would appreciate putting up a duplex for three family couples.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just like Mrs. Lawrence asked whether you agree with the \$32, the match boxes have a maximum scale of \$50 and also the Annex have a \$70 maximum scale and I would like to stress that. Those are the maximum scales that are set for these two different houses and also I am glad that you are able to speak as youths. I have a better understanding, if possible you have a contract and working with us too and the public that are sitting here to have more chance to speak. I would like you to make your presentations smaller because I would like to hear from the public here. Thank you.

MR. JOANASIE AKEESHOO: (Translation) I am from Frobisher. I don't have that much to say but there are some things I want to voice. Frobisher is a very large community and there is no housing association board of directors. The reason we don't have a board of directors is because the people that were looking after the ballot, made a mistake somewhere. I was trying to be a part of the board of directors but now we are not doing anything. The people that wanted a board of directors didn't nominate some people that live in some houses and there is a lot of people that are not able to vote and there is a minority of the tenants that are able to vote for their board of directors.

Perhaps the higher officials that are in the housing association management, they were able to vote. I was trying to be part of the board of directors and they were mainly women on that board and there were also a lot of new members that had no experience on the board. I have been a member of the housing association board in the past and we have run properly, I thought. I don't think there is anybody from the housing association management here. Frobisher is the only community that has no housing association board right now.

We find out about a lot of people who need houses but now we don't know which people want houses because we are not doing anything as a board. If I see some families move into new houses I am just wondering who is putting these people in houses because the housing association board now are not consulted as to who is going into what houses. I am just saying these things because I want you to know because this creates problems with us as a board. This is the main thing that I wanted to bring up.

There is a lot of people in our houses and a lot of people who don't have a place to go come over and stay at our house to sleep. They don't even consult with the housing association nor the social services so a lot of people just come over to our places for a place to sleep. There's some recent elected board members of the housing association that are here and I wish they would come up and speak up because they know the situation. This is what I wanted to bring up so if you have any questions, I will try to answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Questions. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is he telling us that he doesn't know where to go for information, say if he needs information tomorrow -- does he know who to contact?

MR. JOANASIE AKEESHOO: (Translation) One of the members for the Housing Corporation, I could try to get information from him but we don't always meet often.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Arlooktoo.

MR. ARLOOKTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to let you know that if they want some help from Cape Dorset -- I am the representative from Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. If they want some information they should come to me. If you can't get information, you have representatives so you can go to Dennis Patterson for assistance so that he can tell the government people in Frobisher or Yellowknife, because he can help you, I know for sure. Thank you.

MR. JAONASIE AKEESHOO: (Translation) Yes, I know him and I've heard of him. I thought about getting some help from him. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Are there other people who would like to raise concerns? Geela.

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) Is it alright if I speak Inuktitut?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Sure.

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I am not mainly concerned about myself, I am more concerned about the people of Frobisher Bay so I want to make some comments. I have been working for social services for quite awhile now for seven years. I have noticed about these problems -- the shortage of houses and I have been one of the members for the Housing Corporation and I noticed some of the problems but it is very hard to learn when you just start.

There is a lot of obstacles that we encounter in the beginning and there is not enough Inuit in this committee and this is one of the problems and also the people of Frobisher don't have enough houses and there are too many families in one house. One particular house is so crowded sometimes we feel sorry for younger people because social services are not here to supply houses and there's no houses available for the younger people. A lot of time these younger people don't have a place to go so they just walk around outside. At one time there was only a few of them but now they are increasing all the time. There's a lot of young people doing that now a days and also there are a lot of other people coming in from different communities. So, when there is no houses available, we have to try to find a place for these people to sleep. Even though there's a lot of people in one house we have to ask them to take boarders.

Getting a house is very difficult right now and if they you are Inuk and want to board with an Inuit family, a lot of people that are coming here to the hospital board with Inuit families. A lot of time these patients that are coming to the hospital here don't have an adequate place to go or a place to board.

I don't want to talk for too long but some people stated that this created quite a bit of problems because of lack of houses. Some of the young people turn to drinking because of this problem and sometimes they are forced to board in a place where they don't want to be so therefore they turn to something else that they wouldn't have normally done, for instance, with drugs or alcohol. I am not trying to give Frobisher a bad impression but this a transient centre community for different communities. Some of the young people who are not very well welcomed here in Frobisher so sometimes they try to help other people who live with them. Presently it is very hard because we are in a situation where we are in a bad location, for example, we have some staff housing so if we are going to receive units I feel that we will have to have a comfortable shelter and I know that the government is capable of not giving any units so it should be more readily available to the people so we are not in a situation where we have no shelter and that funding should be shared among the people so that more people have more houses.

I have said this on behalf of Frobisher Bay residents and I feel awkward sometimes so I would like to thank you and if if you have questions, please feel free to ask.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Are there any questions? Michael.

MR. ANGOTTITAUROUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We recognize and most of the people that live in the North recognize that there is a shortage of houses. And as this committee is on a tour, this committee, I think, I believe is trying to help the public who are in need of these houses. We hear many different things about problems, shortage of houses and each year there are houses that are built in settlements, some are as many as 10, some are as many as five or six at one time and still the whole Territories has different problems due to shortage of houses and there are some programs that are available but to think of the average person or a poor person there is really no hope for some people who just walk around outside looking for rooms to sleep in. That has been a problem for so long now.

Now, I want to ask you a question and whether you can give me some sort of answer for the record. Like I said before, there's 10 or nine or six houses to one settlement each year to wherever they go and yet in some other places they are needed more. I'd like to ask what you think is the fairest way to try and fulfill or to give more houses to where they are mostly needed, at least two or three houses would be a lot of help. So, I just wanted to know if you could sort of give me an answer to what might be the fairest way to deal with giving houses -- not giving 10 or 15 houses to one settlement.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Michael. Geela.

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I don't think I am going to answer this correctly, but I'll try. Perhaps they could be a survey done in each community to see what the population is in each community. I think that could be some sort of a solution to see how many families live in one house and how many units there are in each community. After the survey is done, the community could be considered then of how much housing you'd need and also some people say that Frobisher Bay is a headquarters where it has facilities such as hospital and high school. Perhaps right now we have facilities that smaller communities do not. I think we could lend a hand to the smaller communities and some of the remote communities do have to be close to hospitals and sometimes even doctors have to commit themselves to live in Frobisher Bay because they work for the hospital. Does that answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Michael.

MR. ANGOTTITAUROUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, what I'd like to hear is the word "study" and I agree on that but all across the Territories as we know, each region or each settlement, groups of settlements have MLAs and whatever the settlements need, I hear that which ever one of them screams the loudest, that's the name of the game of the Legislative Assembly the way I seem to see it in the past. And it still seems to be that way. They said there, which ever settlement screams the loudest can be granted some requests they need. Really I don't agree with that and I just wanted to know if you agree with that? That's also due to shortage of housing.

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I can answer that. If I were to be the chairman of the housing association I would say very loudly to the MLAs but since I'm not I would not have enough power to scream as much as I want. I know we want to scream but there is some plug that we coming to a limit so that is why we live like that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Anymore questions? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand they have board of trustees and a housing association in Frobisher. Are the people aware that there is two organizations going in this town or are they confused with the board of trustees and the housing association?

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) I have thought about people getting confused about which organization is responsible for housing and we have never informed the people about the organization and Joanasie Akumalik also knows that this information should be put out on paper of how the association is operating.

I think there is some of us who are going to be temporary on this board of trustees because they have told us that they were just going to do an experiment for six months for this board of trustees. So it seems as though we are not going to continue, so that is one of the main problems that we have right now. I have sympathy for the town of Frobisher Bay because they don't have enough information.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Just for the record, are you saying that this board of trustees is only a trial basis for six months?

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) Yes. We are on a trial basis of what the trustees are capable of handling and I am not quite sure of what we will be doing in the future. We are just listening to people of what we are capable of.

MRS. LAWRENCE: If I may, Mr. Chairman, because we didn't have a chance or time to meet with the board of trustees. I am just going according to what is in front of me here -- can some of the board of trustees identify themselves to us now?

MRS. GEELA GIROUX: (Translation) There is quite a few of us here. For a board of trustees probably we can't identify ourselves. Should I do the introductions? That was Herb Hunt from the Housing Corporation, Joanaste from Frobisher Bay, Joe Rizzotto. Are there anymore board of trustees? Some of our colleagues are not attending this meeting. There is Bryan Pearson who left and Oleepa Gordon is probably not here and Katherine Garvin is also involved in board of trustees who is not here.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Joe Rizzotte, who are you working for again? I didn't hear that.

MR. JOE RIZZOTTO: I work for the town.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Any further questions from the committee? Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Dennis Patterson. I am the MLA for Frobisher Bay and I apologize for not having been able to come here earlier but I had another commitment tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I don't want to talk for too long because I will have other opportunities to give you input but I would just like to say a couple of things publicly here but first, let me say, how welcome this committee is on housing. It is a very serious issue in Frobisher Bay -- I can tell you it is causing a lot of people a lot of anguish and concern and I hear from a lot of people who have housing problems and I feel very powerless because we do have a chronic housing shortage in this community.

I would like to commend you for taking on this very large task of going to all parts of the NWT and I would like to also commend you for the way you are working. I have been very impressed that while you are here in Frobisher Bay you have met with the Housing Corporation staff, you have met with the mayor, you've offered me the opportunity to give you input, you've met with the Baffin Region Housing Federation chairman and the former president of the Frobisher Bay Housing Association. You've toured the town and tomorrow you are going to be going into houses -- I really think you are going to become experts on a very complicated area and I think that the changes you recommend will see real changes affected. And it's good timing because we have just had a new government elected and we have time to make some changes.

I'd just like to talk a bit about the changes that have taken place in Frobisher Bay recently because I think there are some lessons to be learned here. It is unfortunate that the general public doesn't realize that the housing association was very quietly dissolved in January. It was reported in the press and in the newspaper but it hasn't really been communicated to the general public and that is unfortunate. But I'd like to say that I think that what has happened has resulted in improvements in the governance of housing in Frobisher Bay and offer some lessons to this committee and to other communities.

Now, basically what happened was that there was not sufficient support for the housing association in Frobisher Bay. At their annual meeting to elect a board of directors, there was a very small turnout, so small in fact, that a number of people who were elected to the board were in fact employees of the housing association and I am sure that some of you can appreciate that this is a conflict of interest and not the most desirable situation that employees should be sitting on the board that employs them. I think that the board of directors were getting tremendous pressure often from newcomers to Frobisher Bay to give them housing -- and Mr. Angottitauruq is talking about the person who yells the loudest, gets what they want in the Legislative Assembly sometimes.

Well, this is what was happening in Frobisher Bay, the board of directors of the housing association, as I understand it, were getting terrible pressure. Often from people who least deserved housing and in some cases they were yielding and this was causing resentment and making it very difficult to be a member of the board. Also, some people were running for the board of directors to solve their own housing problem and not to serve the tenants at large and this caused a lack of credibility for the housing association and I think made it an unattractive position for the best people to offer themselves. I would like to pay tribute to Joanasi Akumalik and May Lonsdale and the other people who have served the housing association on the board in Frobisher Bay because it is a very difficult job in this community and the pressures are very strong. But I believe that they should be happy to have been relieved of the difficult job by a decision of the Housing Corporation.

I think we should look at the board of trustees and say, is this a better way of running housing in this community and indeed in other communities. We have the municipal government, the elected local government having a big role in the housing authority, we have the Department of Social Services represented. I think we all recognize that it is very important that there be input from Social Services in housing because so many of the people who have the greatest needs are so social assistance clients. We have the Housing Corporation directly involved. Up until now, the Housing Corporation has been up here on the hill, sometimes not even talking to the housing association board. At least now, they are actively involved in the decision-making.

I'd like to recommend that your committee should look at the housing authority model in Frobisher Bay and look at it for its possible application to other communities. Let's give it a chance and see if it can work in this community. I don't think it's fair to expect tenants to govern themselves. Tenants should be represented on the housing authority and there are two tenants represented on the housing authority but it is a fundamental conflict of interest, I believe, for a tenant association to be responsible for things like collecting rent, and assessing rents and these difficult decisions. I think it's too much to expect tenants to make those difficult decisions. I think tenants should have their own committee and should be represented but they should not be running the housing authority. And I'd like to say that if we are going to establish new models, let's not throw out the housing associations, but let's call them tenants associations and let them speak for the interests of the tenants in the communities. But let the difficult decisions about allocations, budgets, collecting rent arrears be made by the housing authority, which I suggest, should primarily involve the municipal government.

I am pleased that in the takeover of housing association in Frobisher Bay, moneys were given to the housing association so that they could continue meeting and I understand they have a budget which allows them to continue meeting and which allows them to make recommendations as to their future and what role they should play in the future as a tenants association as an advisor to the housing authority. I believe that they haven't yet been very active since the takeover, maybe they need encouragement but I believe that their advice is very important but that they shouldn't have the full responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, there are 57, I believe, government employees living in public housing in Frobisher Bay and I think our waiting list is somewhere over 80 and I can't help asking myself, although private home-ownership is not for the average tenant of public housing, are there some tenants in public housing who could be given incentives to build their own houses, to move out of public housing and to make way for the people who most need that housing. Who can't afford to build their own home. The people who are hunters, who have very irregular income and people who haven't had the chance to be educated and get good jobs. Those are the people who need housing, the welfare recipients, the handicapped people.

But I believe that there are tenants who are in public housing in Frobisher Bay who if they were given incentives would build their own houses and be glad to build their own houses. Now, I understand, the average house costs somewhere over \$1,200 to maintain each month and that the average rent is somewhere around \$100 on average. If we were to offer tenants who wish to build their own housing somewhere around the same offer that is made to government public servants in this town, \$750 a month as an incentive to build their own house and get out of public housing. I believe we could have more houses available for the needy people. Now, I'm not saying that this is for everybody, but I believe that if there are 57 government employees with good jobs, presumably, and steady incomes, living in public housing. At least some of them could be lured, encouraged to build their own houses. And, I'll tell you, it's working, slowly for the public servants. Territorial government employees in staff housing are building their own houses because they are given that incentive. Why shouldn't we make that available to tenants of public housing?



Why shouldn't we make that available for tenants of public housing? Speaking of the programs offered to government public servants, there is no reason why we shouldn't be offering to sell government staff houses to public servants in Frobisher Bay and Baffin Region. I would like to see your committee urge that this step be taken, because I know there are people who would like to buy government houses and start their own home-ownership program.

Last year the Government of the Northwest Territories sold two million dollars worth of its own houses to its own employees. Two million dollars, now if we have that kind of money coming back to the government from the sale of government houses that we do not want as a government, -- and I know Mr. Chairman that you agree with me on this and we have spoken about this before, this money should go into a fund to offer mortgage assistance at favourable interest rates to any northern person. Not only public housing tenants but any northern person who wishes to buy a house and build their own house. Right now the biggest complaint I hear about the territorial governments housing policy is that it only applies to people who have the good fortune to work for the territorial government. No one else has these incentives. No one else gets these incredible advantages. I think that your committee should look seriously at ways of offering these kind of incentives to the public housing tenant and to the private businessman and the person who does not work for the government or who does not live in public housing.

Also I would like to say that we need to create jobs desperately in this community. Our young people are attending school and finding that sometimes they have to leave the community to get a job after getting an education. Small businesses are crucial to creating local employment. I would like to ask your committee when you are reviewing housing policies to consider whether or not some of the restrictions on using public housing for business purposes might not be lifted in certain cases and I am thinking of the small businessman. The small businessman has not got the ability to provide housing for his staff, and hasn't often got the ability when he is starting to build an office, invest in space to work. I would really suggest that you should look at relaxing some of the restrictions that prevent business use of public housing in those situations.

I am not going to be much longer, Mr. Chairman but I would just like to give you a few other ideas. I believe that the Housing Corporation is isolated in this region. It is isolated from the headquarters in Yellowknife where decisions are made, all important decisions are made. I am afraid it is also isolated from the Government of the Northwest Territories and all the resources and departments that lay in this region. The Department of Local Government is crucial to building houses, land development, preparation of lots and yet the Housing Corporation cannot take advantage of the resources of the territorial government in the various regions.

I agree with everything that I have heard from your hearings about the need for more local control and local decision making over housing at the community level. I think we have to do in housing, what we are doing I think quite successfully in Education and in Local Government, let people run their own affairs. But that is not going to happen, I believe with the Housing Corporation highly centralized in Yellowknife and an isolated district office working on its own without the support of other government departments. So, I would suggest that if you are serious about decentralizing the functions of the Housing Corporation, letting regions and communities run their own affairs then the Housing Corporation -- serious consideration should be given to making the Housing Corporation a department as a government. I recognize there are disadvantages, we have to make sure that we still are eligible for the very favourable cost sharing programs to build houses under the National Housing Act. I would like to see your committee seriously study that issue.

Now, as to the housing association I really feel sorry for those people because they have been given tremendous responsibility but no development assistance and no resources to do the job. In Local Government when a hamlet is created the Government of the Northwest Territories gives workshops, training sessions, community development officers, work for years to make sure that that hamlet is ready to take on that responsibility. In education, every adult educator in every community has a mandate to help the local education authority exercise its responsibility to give training workshops to manage money, to make policies. But what do we do for the housing associations? They are left on their own and expected to govern an incredibly complicated area without development assistance and without proper wages. No wonder we have problems within the communities with high employee turnover and people who are not capable to do the jobs. Not through their fault but because of a lack of support from the territorial government, developmentally and financially.

One other thing that I would like to say in closing is I am pleased that you have talked about the co-op, you learned about the co-op housing project in Frobisher Bay. I would like to see your committee recommend how the federal co-op program might be used in the Northwest Territories. How it perhaps might be modified to better suit us and how the policies of the Housing Corporation could fit with the co-op motto.

I would like to say I was pleased to have taken some of you for a short tour of the community when you arrived and particularly to note that you were impressed with the community of Apex and you saw it as an attractive place to live with lots of potential for housing, nice housing sites. In 1975, Commissioner Hodgson wanted to close Apex down. I think we never really quite recovered from that shock. Even today there are severe restrictions placed by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the town of Frobisher Bay on development in Apex. I would like to say that small communities have a lot going for them, you have a good quality of education, a good school there and a good sense of community. I would like to recommend that if you are looking at this particular community in your recommendations that you give some consideration to the advantages of perhaps a new attitude toward Apex. I think people live there and are determined to live there and they showed their dedication to Apex when there was a threat that it would be closed down. Lets develop Apex as a community and give it some of the resources that are going to Frobisher Bay and recognize that particularly for certain people it is a very attractive thing to be in a setting away from downtown Frobisher Bay and perhaps we should look at changing our attitudes toward growth in Apex.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for the opportunity to address you. I expect great things out of your committee and hope that these few ideas will give you some encouragement to recommend reform. I think we all agree that there are serious problems and that change is needed. I am confident that with the background you bring to this committee from various parts of the NWT, we are going to have enlightened solutions to problems that have been plaguing us for years and years. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you very much, Mr. Patterson. I would expect that there would be questions as to your recommendations, which number nine or 10 and are very interesting. Before I ask for questions, would it possible to have your brief if it is written, and if it is not written you could get it in some form that we would be able to use.

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to compliment Mr. Patterson on his new haircut.

---Laughter

More importantly, I would like to make a few comments on Mr. Patterson's ideas. Your MIA, Mr. Patterson has been a very effective representative for Frobisher Bay during the last five years in the House, he has worked very hard on your behalf. We are very pleased that he is so supportive on the work of this committee. It is very important to have the support of the whole Legislative Assembly, and the Executive Council if we were in fact to make any significant changes. So we are very happy to have Mr. Patterson's support and any of his ideas.

I can ask a couple of specific questions about some of the points that Mr. Patterson brought up. I think looking at a new approach, the approach of a housing authority where the municipality has a lot more influence and power. I think it is something that this committee should seriously consider. I think it has a lot of potential merit. But following that up, whether or not it is a housing authority, whether it is the municipality itself or its housing association. The realities right now is the housing association really has to do the dirty jobs, has to collect rent, has to evict people and has no power to really change the course of events. Now whether or not there is a new form or we decide to strengthen the present form of a housing association, do you see a local body getting more power? Can you see sometime in the future where the local organization would actually build houses, let out the contracts, run their own training programs, whether local employees would have equal pay as other government employees, where in fact they would be given the resources to do an effective job and there would be a distinct devolution of power from the Housing Corporation to a local housing authority or housing association?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly believe that we have to go in the direction of much more control over housing at the community level. But I say you can only do this if the housing authority or the housing associations have the local government behind them and very closely working with them. The local government is where we have our most capable and most popular and experienced political leaders representing the community. That is probably regarded as the most important committee in each community. There is where the experience and the expertise and the financial muscle lies. The local government has already control over roads, water, sewage, heavy equipment, and all the services that are so important to housing, garbage. So it seems to me that it is very important that there be a strong link at the very least between the housing authority and the local government. I support the direction that has been taken in this community to get the town more involved in housing, particularly since the town already has control over Social Services. Also the social side of housing is another extremely important factor that has to be represented.

So I certainly hope that we can develop to the day when local housing authorities will actually design and build houses and operate the programs. But they are far away from that now and it really disturbs me at how little power the associations have. I understand that if they are given a budget for maintenance and they do not spend the budget it has to go back to the Housing Corporation. If they collect rent they cannot keep it and use it to fix houses, it has to go back to the Housing Corporation. No wonder people get discouraged, no wonder people in this community were not really interested in great numbers in running for the housing association. So I agree fully with that direction. We are doing it in Education, we are doing it in Local Government, were probably going to be doing it in Social Services. Let us do in the area that is so important at the community level, and that is housing. That is the only way that people are going to care about their houses and take pride in their houses is if they have control and ownership and responsibility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you. That answers my question and it is indeed fruit for thought. I think another interesting comment that you made, was the possibility of the territorial government directly taking over the Housing Corporation and it seemed to me through our discussions in the communities that there is a real problem right now and there is a distinct difference between a housing program for territorial government employees run by Department of Public Works and public housing program. You obviously get a better deal if you are in house provided by the government. We have also seen through the budget process is that it seems that the Housing Corporation is very very heavily centralized, they have their own personnel department, they have their own finance department, so it would seem that by bringing all aspects of delivery of housing programs under one roof and that roof be under the auspices of the territorial government, that you could prevent a lot of duplication. So, I think the idea has a lot of merit but I understand that there might be some difficulties in the funding arrangement with CMHC and the federal government. It was my understanding that they asked for a quasi independent body to deal with. So, do you see that as a problem that can be overcome?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mr. Patterson.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly have not studied that aspect of the problem. I think it is a problem that a lawyer could solve. I would suggest that the requirements under the National Housing Act and requirements of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation could likely be met through the creation of local housing authorities which could be corporations with the local government as a board of directors or a prime source for the board. I would not want to throw out that essential source of shared funding for capital and operating and maintenance from the federal government. But I would suggest that the resources that are available to your committee should allow you to research that problem and if you agree with the principle of creating a department of housing within the government, a legal mechanism could be found to satisfy the requirements of the act. If that was not possible of course, then the idea has no merit. But I strongly feel that we are looking after our own public servants so well, there is a plumber on call if there is a problem in a government employees house and yet the housing association tenant has to wait months or years sometimes to get major problems solved. I would like to see those resources concentrated and I think one of the biggest sources of resentment, that I see, in this community and others is inequality between the government employees and other people who live in public housing. I do not see why we should not have a common housing policy and a common use of

resources, so that when a plumber goes into a community to work on government buildings, that plumber can also work on public housing. So, I have not got the solution. I am just asking that your committee give serious consideration to it, because I believe that is a real source of inequity and unfairness and bitterness.

I recognize fully that it would mean that employees of the associations or the authorities would likely become public servants and that would cost a great deal more money than it is costing right now. But I think there would also be tremendous savings in being able to use the total resource of the government in the financial areas. For example, in the area of trades and maintenance, in the area of education and training. Why shouldn't local government officers be working with people who are involved in housing. Isn't that community development the same as growing toward hamlets and towns is community development. So, I think it would be a major change, I am not proposing it just for changes sake, I have really become convinced that there are real advantages to that approach, but I am counting on your committee and the resources available to you, to research the question and I don't pretend to have thought it out fully at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: If all these ideas you have brought forward and that we have heard before are implemented, I think there is something that you would have to agree with, is that unless this Government is prepared to make housing a major priority and allocate significantly more financial resources to the problem, we are not going to solve the problem. I think that we are fooling ourselves if we think otherwise. Now we can make a lot of structural changes, there has been a lot of good ideas been brought forward, but it is going to take the will of this Government to rearrange some priorities and allocate, I think, significantly more resources to housing. Do you agree with that, Mr. Patterson?

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I would agree with that, Mr. Chairman. I feel that although we have talked about education as a priority, children are not succeeding in school because they do not have a proper home, because they are living in crowded conditions, because they do not have a place to study. Housing problems breed social problems, problems with justice and so many of our other priorities in the Northwest Territories are a result of housing problems. So, I think it is a fundamental issue, I believe that the public are very concerned and I would support resources to housing, not just through enlarging the budget but through making better use of resources that we already have within our governments, within our regional governments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mr. Patterson. Undoubtedly this committee will hold you to that particular position.

HON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am speaking as an MLA.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Well, of course.

---Laughter

I fully know what you mean. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comment that our Minister made, I strongly believe it has to be a joint effort with the other departments. And I will remind our Minister of that comment the next time the Legislative Assembly is sitting. I just want to make a comment, I don't have a question. I am sorry to hear that there was lack of training for the association that has been existing, due to shortage of resources or employees or whatever. After existing that many years, you would think that with the other departments as a joint effort, would come to some kind of conclusion where there would be some kind of training package offered or some kind of training done for this association, rather than, as I understand, the board of trustees running by the corporation staff. Like I said, I agree that it should be a joint effort and that it should be done under a department such as training. Maybe that is something to think about in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you, Mrs. Lawrence. Are there further questions of the local MLAs? Mr. T'Seleie.

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a general comment on some of the ideas Mr. Patterson has. I think they are very good ideas and I know that the committee or most of the committee supports those kinds of ideas and I just want to say that during my talks with Mr. Ballantyne that he has assured me he will put aside his politics in order to improve the housing situation in the North.

---Laughter

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Are there any further questions regarding Mr. Patterson's views? Thank you very much, Mr. Patterson. Mr. Arnaituq Ipellie.

MR. ARNAITUQ IPELLIE: (Translation) I am quite angered. There have been some good views and concerns from the people brought up regarding housing and I support them. I realize that there is little time. I am staying in the government staff house. My questions is, regarding utilities. Do you think that they have to wait for a home, before their plumbing or their utilities are fixed?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Just before you leave, I would like to indicate to you that this particular committee, in moving around to various communities as we shall do, is open to hear any kind of comments or concerns from anyone in the community as long as it regards housing. It is not specific to any one group it is open to any person within a community to come forth and express their concerns or make comments on housing.

MR. ARNAITUQ IPELLIE: (Translation) Thank you, for your answer.

MR. JOSIE PAPATSIE: (Translation) I have been working for the housing association for a long time. My presentation is quite long, but I will try to be as brief as possible. It seems not fair for me to speak against the housing association since I work for them. I started working before the liquor store was built and I have seen a lot of problems and also what improvements have been made on housing. This winter we do not know who we are going to be working for, because I know who the board of trustees are. There are very few Inuit on the board, most of them are white. At one time the housing association members were elected by the tenants, but this is not the case anymore.

I am going to make presentation on a concern, because I have worked with a lot of other people and some of them had to quit their jobs because of a lack of funding. Right now the jobs are being given to the Kabloonas and they should be given to the Inuits. It seems that the funding is the problem but it seems that the Inuit people that are being laid off are being replaced by the white people and I totally disagree with this.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): I am not sure, I will have to ask someone who is with the trustees board how many members are on it. Are there six or seven? Mr. Hunt.

MR. HUNT: There are seven.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Out of the seven, how many are Kabloona? Three or four?

MR. HUNT: Four.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): There are four Kabloona and three Inuit. Now, I am not sure that we are here Josie, to indicate to you how we can solve that problem. We can listen to your comments and bring those to the attention of the board of trustees through the corporation and the minister. I think this committee would be prepared to do that. But what was indicated to begin with, and hopefully that what I have repeated, we are here to listen to people voice their concerns on any aspect of housing. We do not have the answers and I would hope that after we have listened to people in various communities that we would be able to make recommendations to solve the problems, such as the one you bring about.

I hope that in this instance that you have referred to that the now trustee board will recognize that there is a concern and try to do something that will ease any kind of problems that now come up about its role and the role of the people that work with the association, such as yourself and any other problems that are concerned with the tenants. But at the present time, we as a committee do not have those answers or the answer to your question. We are here to listen to those concerns but we do not have the answers to your questions. Does anyone else wish to comment? Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not too clear as to he is working for, the association or the board of trustees, there are two different things now. I am confused. And just for the record, who are you working for?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): If I may before that, that is the question he posed himself. He suggested that he wasn't sure as to who he has been working for since January. I guess what must occur is to find out if in fact Josie has been receiving a wage and who pays that wage. Mr. Hunt, Mr. Hunt you will have to use a mike.

MR. HUNT: Mr. Chairman, when the board of trustee took over responsibility for housing, all employees were met and the takeover was explained and each employee was given a notice of lay off by the housing association and a job offer by the board of trustee and each employee has been receiving a regular salary since then.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Mrs. Lawrence, does that answer your question?

MRS. LAWRENCE: That is good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): So, Josie, I think you raised that question. Your last question was dealt with the laying off of Inuit and hiring on of Kabloonas. Again, we do not have the answer to that, it is something that can be addressed by the trustee board which is made up of four Kabloonas from the town, the mayor, secretary manager, district manager of the Housing Corporation and assistant district manager. There are also three Inuit on the board. I think that these are the people who can answer your question that you have posed to us.

MR. JOSIE PAPATSIE: (Translation) As you have mentioned and we have listened to that the Inuit would like to try and deal with their own affairs and at the same time they are being replaced by the Kabloonas. Is that fair, even though we have been saying that the Inuit's should have more control.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): I am not sure Josie, how to answer that question. I would indicate to you, personally I cannot speak for other Members of this committee. I do not think it is fair to replace anybody with somebody else if the first person is doing or performing their job to the satisfaction of the employer. That may not be what others feel, but that is how I feel about it.

MR. JOSIE PAPATSIE: (Translation) You are here listening on housing matters, and I feel this is related to housing problems, about housing employees.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): I think Josie, that we will recognize that concern. Members of the committee have heard it and when we discuss what we have heard from the communities, this will be one of the subjects that we will discuss further. I am afraid we will have to leave it at that, because we are not here to provide answers at the present time.

MR. JOSIE PAPATSIE: (Translation) I am looking after some plumbing. In the past we never used to have vehicles but now we do and that is very convenient. We had to use skidoos before. You heard that at the present time this problem is that you have to wait for plumbing but this is not the case anymore. There is a shortage of houses and large families live under one roof. I know this is a problem because I have to visit these people every day. The shortage of houses is the main problem. A lot of people have trouble paying their rent if they are not assisted by social development. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Any questions?

MRS. ALICE JOAMIE: I am a permanent resident of Frobisher Bay. I don't really go to a lot of meetings, not even the public ones at the high school. The only place I go is to the store and the hospital, so I may make mistakes when I am talking. I moved into a house in 1963 and since then to 1980 I have always a number of people staying with me. I know there is a shortage of houses and I have a large number of children. Our house is not handled by the housing association. My husband built it and we don't have electricity and we only have a wood burning stove. It is a lot more convenient because the housing association does not have to bother us anymore but I still have a problem because I have a lot of children.

I am going to tell you what my concern is. I don't know who is responsible for housing but I think they should check their buildings more because as soon as they move a tenant into a building they never bother to check back again. The tenant is not responsible for the repairs, the householder pays the rent. There are a lot of people refusing to assist them on rent, so the actual householder cannot pay the rent and therefore have to appear in court. I think this is not fair. I will have further concerns.

I don't even know who is controlling the housing situation now here in our community. I think it would be better if they visit the houses once in awhile and those who are responsible for houses or the board should contact the people personally not just by phone. It is better to talk personally if you have trouble and that way they will know exactly what you want. One of my children was kicked out of the house just through the phone and I did not see anyone actually asking that person to leave. I don't want that to happen to anyone else because it is hard on a person. What Geela Giroux was saying is that a lot of people on social assistance needs housing. I support that. I am going to end it here because I am not used to talking in public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. I am glad you came out to this meeting this evening.

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: I am not too used to the way that special committees operate. I am not too sure I should be up here a second time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): We will give you the dispensation.

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: Thank you. I would like to state again that I am the secretary manager of the Cape Dorset Housing Association. A lot of times this does not necessarily mean I know more about what I am talking about, maybe it just means that sometimes I am more confused. There are some things I have heard tonight that have made me even more confused. I believe I heard tonight that although tenants should have some input into housing concerns that they should not have the responsibility of making the decisions themselves. As I see it, that relates to the citizens of Canada not having the responsibility to govern themselves. As MLAs I believe the way in which you operate is that you are elected from the citizens of NWT and you have the responsibility for governing yourselves as well as us.

A number of things I heard, I agree with. Maybe some of the recommendations I tend not to agree with. I have heard that the association in Frobisher Bay was inefficient. My main query is, why was it inefficient? Personally I tend to see an authority as being the end result after having tried all other areas available. Were these people inefficient because they knew of the policies and objectives of housing in their community and they actually went out and purposely broke these policies and breached these policies? Or did they not fully understand or know about these policies? Perhaps if the board had have been fully informed or fully understood these policies, they may have been much less inefficient.

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Again it sort of ties in to what I brought up before. The idea if there is no output of information you are going to have very little input and also as a result of that very little interest. I just wanted to state this counterpoint to some of the other things that were brought up because I feel that the people in the community should have the responsibility of making major decisions on the housing, whose basic reason for public housing is for those people in the first place.

I agree that an association can be misused or improperly used but I also believe that setting up an authority may tend to lead to disregard or no knowledge of the actual concerns of the people the houses are there for. Basically it was mentioned that hamlets, social services, etc., should have more direct control over housing. If I have my information properly, I believe that hamlet board of directors and social services board of directors are elected from within the community and have the responsibility of governing themselves. The way I see it is that you combine all these things together under one authority you are coming into an area that was also discussed this evening, that of too much centralization. And again, as it relates to my first comments, I believe if the information was available, fully explained, that the association in the first place would not have been inefficient enough to warrant the creation of a board of trustees.

As it relates to creating authorities in all the other communities, are we implying that all the other associations are also inefficient? I don't believe that is the case. In the long run both courses of action, the association and the authority, I agree, they both have advantages and disadvantages. But as associations were created first in all 13 communities, obviously at the time it was felt that associations were better equipped to handle the concerns of the communities as well as the concerns of housing. If they are failing to do so, maybe more emphasis should be placed on why they are failing to do so rather than just creating an authority to inherit the problems that the association was too inefficient to handle.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Just to indicate to you, we receive or listen to what individuals say, we are not making recommendations as yet. Maybe we will. Based on what we have heard, maybe we won't. We are not making or accepting any recommendations other than information to us at this time.

MR. CHUCK GILHOULY: I am sorry if I am kind of slow in bringing up my ideas but I am a little bit confused and still sorting things out in my own head. As you say, you are not making any definite recommendations yet, I just hope that I could show a counterpoint so that any recommendations that may or may not be made will take these views into account.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): You can rest assured. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I would like to pursue that a little bit further. One of the common complaints we had in every community was that the housing associations would like more power. I think it is our responsibility to look at how the people in a community can take over more responsibility in the area of housing. You are right, there are pluses and minuses as to which way we go. But I think that as Mr. Paterson brought forward the idea and the mayor of Frobisher Bay also brought forward the idea that there might be -- I emphasize "might be" at the moment -- some advantage of having the municipality more directly involved in the delivery of these programs.

That is one thing you do, consolidate power in one body. The municipality is already set up to handle funds, to provide training programs and I think in a small community it is a problem if you have too many committees, to find enough people who are interested in serving on them all. So it might be better to have one strong organization than four or five weaker ones dealing with different problems. But no decision has been made. It is just an option that we are looking at, and your comments will be taken into consideration before we make the final decision. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Fortunately you are able to speak the language and able to read and write. I can sympathize with you for getting confused. It seems like in every community that we visit, they are all confused regarding information they are not getting. I am glad to hear your views and concerns, I am only sorry we cannot give any answers at this time, but any comments that you made will be seriously considered in our recommendations. Mahsi cho.



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CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Any further comments or questions?

MR. CHUCK SILHOULY: When we talk about the hamlet already being set up and able to handle training programs, funds, etc. I think we should also remember that the associations are also set up to handle those things at this time. In our community there already is a hamlet member that comes to all of our board meetings, he reports the view of the hamlet council to our board and he reports the views of our board to the hamlet council. If we had the responsibility for housing to the responsibility for all other things, might we not be expecting too much from all the people who are already on this committee?

As was noted, a number of the associations are already confused and all they handle is housing. If we add all these concerns of housing to the members of the board of a hamlet, would that not directly just multiply the confusion? And if not, wouldn't they just have to create a separate committee of the hamlet to handle housing anyway? I know my board meetings tend to go on for hours, very long board meetings, and as I say all we discuss is housing. I shudder to think of the length of a hamlet board meeting if they have to discuss housing as well as all the hamlet concerns. Would not any decisions made by this board be biased in favour of any opinions the people on this board may have themselves toward the hamlet? Those are just a few things that came to my mind. I am sorry if I am acting as a provocateur. It is just that my confusion is fairly great and my concern has grown over the past few hours.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): We have ad invitations from close to 40-odd communities -- you are confused after one meeting -- I will leave it at that. Thank you. Further comments. Mr. Patterson.

NON. DENNIS PATTERSON: I am a bit concerned that I have been misunderstood when I suggested that it takes longer to get public houses fixed. I would like to make it perfectly clear, that I think the housing association employees in Frobisher Bay are doing a terrific job considering what they have in the way of resources and what the government has got. All I was trying to say tonight was that I think it is wrong that government employees have better housing benefits, government employees who maintain houses are better paid and have better budgets, I would like to see the housing associations too, the housing authorities, get better maintenance budgets and better pay and better resources so they can do their job better. I am not saying that they are lazy and inefficient. I think they are doing the best they can, but I think compared to what they government has got to look after its own houses, they could use a lot more resources. I thank you for the opportunity to clarify what I meant with that remark about plumbers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Further comments.

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: I had to come back here for the public meeting. I have been here in Frobisher Bay for five years and I have three kids. I moved to Frobisher to find a job. I had no housing here. First of all I approached the housing association to apply for a house, I was told that I would be on the waiting list for approximately a year. I had to move in with somebody and I brought my kids here. After I was told to wait for a year or six months. I did not believe that, after a couple of weeks I finally got my house. I was not told of the type of house I would get and I was happy because I would be keeping my job and having my kids with me. There were a lot of people looking for jobs. Since we moved into the house I fully support the housing association maintenance men. There are problems with windows. But I felt happy even with the problems and sometimes during the night and three times a week he would come up to the house and fix the plumbing and the furnace. After working hours I had to call the association and I felt I was not treating them too well.

Since I have been crying for a better house. I felt good that the maintenance came right away. The first house we moved to had one bedroom and there were four people in one house and we had a lot of patients from the hospital who stayed with us. So I asked the housing association if I could move into a better house. I was not told how long I had to wait but I was anxious to move into a house where there was a big room. After a month I received a unit and I thought an individual had to wait for a long, long time. For me I only had to wait a couple of months. When we moved into the house it was bad for me to keep up with my rant because I was used to a small place. I was not sure of all this and how I was going to treat my kids.

Right now I can see a problem when there is a shortage of houses when the people we are responsible for do not have enough space to move in with us and when I have to look after some people from social services I know that a small community will encounter some of these problems. It was difficult for me to think of what I would do when I moved into a larger community.

We are not saying that we should have a house like white people but they are just bringing in all sorts of different houses. Even though our requests are not being answered -- the government is building all types of houses. I am totally against this situation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you. Any questions?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: Is that the only answer you are going to give me?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): You got it.

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: If you have a question on the housing association I could have some answers. I have indicated what happened after the elections.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Regarding the association, I understand you were the chairman of the association for Frobisher Bay. Are you still the chairman or do they no longer exist?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: We were existing for a while but the wind blew us away.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I understand why the houses blew away in Pang but why did your association blow away?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: White people always want to have power. We kid around sometimes -- if I disagree with some things, you shouldn't really be worried with what I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Any other questions?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: Don't stop me. I would like to stress again about the shortage of housing. There definitely has to be houses because the communities are increasing. Single parents need housing and they don't want to live with their parents. I would like to see this in the future in Frobisher. Younger people need houses. Arcades are here from down South, these things can be moved up here very fast from the South, and it is slow to bring in the buildings and it seems as though -- why is it so long to bring in the houses? Is it because of the funding? It seems like they don't want to bring houses in our country. We know the government can bring in all sorts of things, as long as it is not government property they don't seem to care about it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): I think those are some of the questions we will be asking the government and the corporation, those that you ask here. We will take those comments and pass them along before we come to any decision regarding any recommendations that we make.

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: I had to attend a conference and we were asked to appear at this conference and I had to attend this meeting for one month when the Baffin Regional Housing chairman -- I was still the same, I still wanted the chance to speak even though I wasn't chairman. I am not saying I do not like kabloona, if I do not like them I like money.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Anything further?

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: There is a lot of unemployment here and they are staying in public housing. There are also a lot of young people and single parents living in public housing. How do you feel about people having to pay large amounts of rent when they are just going to have temporary employment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Again, that is one of the questions we are going to ask of the corporation and the government, through the Minister, before any kind of recommendation to change present policies are made from the committee.

MRS. MAY LONSDALE: I think there are other people who can speak. Thank you for listening to me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Any further comments?

MR. JOANASIE AKUMALIK: I have been a long time member of the housing association board and I know of a lot of problems here in Frobisher. When I was one of the board of directors we had a lot of problems with tenants who owed too much money for the rent. Up to today that problem still exists.

I think one of the reasons was that the housing association board of directors could not control those people who owed rent. Those parties who ceased to be board of directors of the housing association. The way I see it, this is not solving the problem. Perhaps it is better for the kaivonne the way they run it, but to the Inuit this does not solve the problems we have.

We all know we are in a shortage of houses here in Frobisher. Even when there is a new board of trustees, when they created this board of trustees, they created more problems than there already is. I am also one of the board of trustees, I am not saying I do not like them, I am just saying this is creating more problems.

The tenants who owe money or don't pay rent because they don't have income, I think the main problem is that these people who have to be evicted and would have to be replaced by people that the trustees thing could pay the rent. The way I see it, the Housing Corporation which is responsible for the Baffin Region, if they are going to take away the responsibilities of the housing associations, they should not just look at how much money they should be getting. They way I see it, the situation has not been improved. The board of trustees were just appointing themselves in order to collect the money from the tenants. They are not being elected within the community. The mayor, secretary manager, district manager of the Housing Corporatin, the assistant district manager are all on the board. I was glad to be selected too because these are all important people. I thought things would improve, but they have not. More problems have been created.

I understand you came here to listen to the concerns. I am not saying I am against the people on the board of trustees. It is not fair for the permanent residents of Frobisher Bay to be evicted. I want a better system in Frobisher Bay. Inuit of Frobisher Bay as permanent residents do not like the situation. The community has never been informed why this board of trustees was formed. What are they trying to do. I am not against my fellow colleagues on the board, but it is a concern.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): We will ask how long the trustees plan to be the management group. We appreciate your comments. Thank you very much. Are there further comments. I recognize that you people have been here as long as we have. I apologize for not calling some kind of a break earlier. If there are not further comments, on behalf of the committee I would like to express our appreciation for your coming out tonight. Your concerns will be taken into account and studied very seriously when this committee makes its recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: We are not machine, we do not run on batteries, but my batteries are running out. We have been at this until 12:00 last night and we are getting very tired. Since 9:00 this morning we have been listening to view and concerns.

I would like to comment on the coop housing. I felt that was one of the better presentations that we had up until now because they had an input as to how their houses are built, although they may never own the houses they are in, at least they are very comfortable, they have a lot of space and porches, because they had an input into the design according to the environment they are living in.

I forgot to comment on the lady who had a stove. That was the first time somebody said they had a stove, I was going to question her about what she is using for wood. But I do admire her for going on her own with her children. Thank you for your view. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. McCallum): Thank you again.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HAMLET COUNCIL OF CAPE DORSET, JUNE 13, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) First of all I would like to indicate to you that two co-chairmen cannot arrive, Mr. Pudluk and Mr. McCallum. I was asked to act as a chairman and I accepted that position. I will handle tonight's meeting and act as a chairman. I would like to introduce the Special Committee on Housing. Mr. Michael Angottitauruq, MLA for Kitikmeot East; Mrs. Eliza Lawrence, MLA for Tu Nedhe; Mr. John T'Seicie, MLA for Sahtu, Dene country; Mr. Mike Ballantyne, MLA for Yellowknife North; and you all know me, Joe Arlooktoo, from Lake Harbour, MLA for Baffin South.

First of all I would like to state that I am glad you are able to attend this meeting even though the weather is nice. The hamlet council would like to meet with us. We are not from the Housing Corporation, we are Members of the Legislative Assembly. We cannot answer questions but we will hear your concerns. We cannot promise you any changes at the present time. After visiting the communities, we will make some changes on housing matters. We will now hear from an MLA from the West.

MR. T'SELEIE: There were a lot of reasons for sitting up his Special Committee on Housing. I know for sure that we have the same kind of problems in the Western Arctic, in the smaller communities. There are problems of shortages, poor construction, delivery, administration of housing is also a problem. When Ludy Pudluk made the motion in the Assembly to set up a Special Committee on Housing, most of us supported the motion to listen to people in each community on their problems with housing. So I think we what we want to do now is to listen to some of your concerns on housing.

So far we have visited seven communities in the High Arctic and the Baffin. We have heard many different concerns about housing and already we are talking amongst ourselves about how things can be improved. People have given us some very good ideas. So when fall comes we will be able to make some good recommendations to the Assembly about how housing can be improved. Some of the changes will take several years but there are other minor things that can happen quite quickly. So we are here to listen to you now. That is all I have to say Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any further comments from the Members of the special committee?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlet council and the mayor are both not in the community and I have been appointed as the acting mayor for the hamlet council. I have full authority as mayor. I will introduce the hamlet council: I. Kingswatsiak, councillor; E. Simigak, councillor; E. Parr, councillor; I. Kenuajuk, councillor; E. Kudjuajuk, councillor; hamlet secretary, Charlie Manning; and also the two people in the back the housing secretary manager and the vice-chairman of the housing association.

The councillors wanted to have a meeting before the public meeting so that we can have better communication. You need a strategy plan. We will try to help the public and we want to prepare for that meeting. We do not really have much to say. What will be happening tonight.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) If you want you can have written presentatins. When we have public meetings, we allow anyone to speak up even though you do not have written materials because it will be taped and written by the secretaries, so we will not lose any statements coming from the public. Anyone have any comments. You can say whatever you want. If you have nothing to say we will wait here until the public arrive at 8:00. We are happy to be welcomed by the hamlet council of Cape Dorset. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would like to thank everyone for inviting us and encourage everyone to speak up and give us your views and concerns. It is important to hear your views and concerns so that we can make recommendations and bring it up to the Assembly in November. I would like the people in front of us to encourage the others to speak. It does not have to be a long speech, as long as you voice your concerns about housing.

Last night we heard from their secretary manager. He told of the problem that he had in communicating with the district office in Frobisher Bay. I thought he did a nice job of letting us know of his problems. I would like to encourage everyone to speak up. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) You can say your concern now or if you would rather wait and let the public hear it, it is up to you.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We Inuit encounter a lot of problems with housing. I am sure these will be brought up by the public. Sometime us Inuit do not understand too well. Some Inuit think that the housing association are doing whatever they want, so I will be seeking help from the people regarding the Housing Corporation operations. I will want some view from the public. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We have heard all kinds of concerns. We will not be able to answer the questions that are asked but it will be taped, so if there are questions that come up that we cannot answer, we will direct them to the Housing Corporation. We are not here mainly to answer questions. We are not the government, we are working for you as elected MLAs, we are sort of inbetween trying to help.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Some people blame the housing association. In the winter we had a public meeting and a lot of people did not like the housing association. After the public meeting, the hamlet and the housing association had to meet to say why the housing association should be taken off and there was no reason why they should dissolve. We found out that they did not break any policies that they had, for that reason we did not take their power away. The housing association board of directors did not break any rules. The housing association is not breaking up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We will welcome everybody that wants to speak. We want to hear both the good and the bad.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) It would have been better if you came in the winter instead of the spring. You will probably see some houses and think that they are good. A lot of people are out hunting so this is inconvenient, although we are happy you are here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We would have come in winter but the Legislative Assembly was meeting and it took us a while to prepare for these meetings. We had no place to stay in Pangnirtung and Frobisher at that time. If we could be shown some houses it would be good.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We also told our people to invite you people to their houses. They are concerned about their houses so they may ask you to see them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We have been visiting houses in different communities that we went to. I think we will have time to visit in the morning and also see the new houses that were built. There are two different houses we have not seen yet. We would like to see them before we leave. Any more comments? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: I understand from your comments that there was some problems between the housing association and the hamlet council, but everything is okay now. Do you think it would be better if the hamlet council and the housing association work closer together in all matters to do with housing? Do you think if there is just one body with representatives of the hamlet council and of the housing association looking at housing, that it might have more power?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We had some problem. The people of Cape Dorset, who have been on the waiting list for houses for a long time, the housing association made them wait so long so this causes problems and the people asked the hamlet to dissolve the housing association board of directors but later on after this problem, the hamlet and the housing association are not against each other, we just wanted to check on the problem. There was no problem whatsoever and they did not break any of their operating policies. As a hamlet council and housing association, we are working well together right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any more concerns? Mrs. Lawrence.

MR. LAWRENCE: That committee that is formed, there is a councillor from the hamlet sitting on the committee isn't there?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) He is away right now. He is representing the hamlet at the housing corporation board of directors.

MRS. LAWRENCE: So you do have a representative on the committee. That is all I wanted to know. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any more comments. If one of the member from the housing association has anything to say they can come up and say their concerns.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) When the housing association had a public meeting, when one person was speaking up, people thought he was supported by the public and it created a problem, so that is why the hamlet council and the housing association got together. We found there was no problem. One person had a problem with the housing association and some people thought a lot of people were supporting this guy but they were not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Can somebody tell us what the reason was?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The person that spoke up said that he could write a letter to the Housing Corporation and people starting clapping their hands. Perhaps if the people who supported the people raised their hands -- that is why it confused everything. That is why we had to meet and clear things up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any further comments. This meeting is open to anybody. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: You said there is a member of the hamlet council on the housing association. Can that member vote?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) Yes. The person representing the hamlet council on the housing association board has the same power as the other members of the association.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any further comments?

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) We have asked the public to start the hearing here today at 8:00 P.M. I feel that we should stop and wait for the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. We will close the meeting for now and reopen the meeting when the public arrives.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

CAPE DORSET, JUNE 13, 1984

MR. EKALUK PARR: (Translation) We would like to welcome the Special Committee on Housing here in Cape Dorset. We will now have an opening prayer.

---Prayer

I would like to tell the public if they have any questions to just go ahead and not to hesitate. I will now give the mike back to the chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We are happy to see a number of people here. I will introduce the Special Committee on Housing: Mr. Michael Angottitaurq, MLA for Kitikmaot East; Mrs. Eliza Lawrence, MLA for Tu Nedhe, Indian land; you know me I am Joe Arlooktoo, MLA for Baffin South; Mr. John T'Selele for Sahtu; Mike Ballantyne for Yellowknife North. I will also mention our chairmen Ludy Pudluk from Resolute Bay and Arnold McCallum from the Fort Smith Region and Red Pedersen from Kitikmeot West, they cannot make it here but they are part of this committee. Because our chairman did not come in, I was asked to be the acting chairman in Cape Dorset.

We have written information on the Special Committee on Housing. The Special Committee on Housing consists of six elected MLAs and four alternate Members appointed by the Legislative Assembly in February 1984 to investigate the concerns that people in the community have on housing. The special committee will also review the operations of the NWT Housing Corporation. The committee will hold public meetings in 10 Baffin communities this month. In the next six months about 40 communities will be visited. An interim report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly this fall. A final report will contain recommendations based on the community hearings. It is the goal of the committee that these recommendations lead to improvement in housing at the community level.

The community hearings are the first step to find out what people would like to see happen with housing. It will not be possible to make any promises about what the committee will be able to do. The committee has to consider the housing situation throughout the NWT and look where the money would come from for any changes it may suggest. The committee has a responsibility to make sure that the recommendations it makes are realistic and positive. Recommendations that would solve some of the major problems we are now having with housing. Therefore we welcome your suggestions for improvement and encourage you to share your ideas with us.

We want to hear your concerns on housing. We also would like you to know that we are not from the Housing Corporation. Anybody can speak. We will not stop anybody from speaking. I will ask a western MLA to make some comments. I would like you to know that you should state your name before you speak so that you will be recorded. We are recording anything that is being said. We will put them into written form and make recommendations and table it at the Legislative Assembly in the fall.

There is a mistake in the Inuktitut brochure. My name, Joe Arlooktoo, is beside Eliza Lawrence's picture and Eliza Lawrence's picture is beside my name. I just wanted you to know that I did not change my name.

I will close my comments and we will now hear from Mr. Ballantyne for Yellowknife North. Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: First of all on behalf of the western Members, I would like to thank you for inviting us to your beautiful. Of the eight communities that we have visited so far, I think your community hall is the nicest. As our chairman has said, Ludy Pudluk, who has acted as our chairman throughout the rest of the tour had to go home. We chose your M.A. Joe Arlooktoo, as chairman. The reason that we did is that Joe represents this constituency, lives in Lake Harbour and very well understands the problems of housing in Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. He has worked very hard for you, to try to solve many of the problems to do with housing. We appreciate him as chairman because of his experience and his strength.

We have heard problems from many communities and it is very important tonight that we hear all of your concerns. Because if we are to make any changes and improve housing in the NWT, we need the support of all the people. Sometimes it is very difficult to change an organization like the Housing Corporation, but we as MLAs are committed to improve the situation. We look forward to hearing your concerns and I will tell you we will try our very best to improve housing in your community and throughout the NWT.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Thank you, Mike. Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would just like to say thank you to everybody for inviting us here. This is the first time that I have been here. I find it very different and interesting because you do not have any trees. Sometimes it is very hard for us to understand different things that are happening, especially if you speak a native language. Many times I really do not understand what is happening because I speak a native language too and I have to question many times so that I can understand clearly what is happening. I just want you to make sure that you understand what we are saying. Please feel free to ask us questions.

The reason I supported the motion to form a Special Committee on Housing is that in my area we encourage people to have their own homes. We have logs to build them from. But not everybody can afford to build their own home. At one time we owned our own homes before the Housing came into the Territories. I was brought up in a home that my grandfather built, I was born and raised in that house and when the Housing Corporation came into the Territories they encouraged my parents to move into a little box type house for \$2 a month, and over a period of a few years they would own it. In our log house, we had an upstairs, power, a phone, we had everything. When they moved into the new house they destroyed the old house. Now my parents are gone and I have nowhere to go. In the meantime they increased the rent as well. For the people who had their homes destroyed and moved into low rental, they could not keep up and they also changed the policies so that they were unable to buy the homes they promised they could. This causes a lot of problems. Some people own their own homes but many of them, it is very difficult for them to find places to stay.

On my tour here in the last two weeks, I found a lot of problems similar to ours and I would like to encourage everyone, even the women in the audience, to come up and speak and tell us their views and concerns and the kinds of problems they are having in the homes, so that we can make good recommendations. We need your help to make good recommendations. Hopefully they will listen to us because we are Legislative Members. We are not working for the government or the Housing Association. Any recommendations that we make will be for the benefit of the people at the community level and hopefully we will be able to follow-up and make some changes. We have to make more visits and then make the recommendations. I want to encourage everyone to tell us their concerns. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We want to hear everyone's concerns, whether you want to talk about home-ownership programs, or staying in public houses. I forgot to introduce our support staff, our co-ordinator is Ms Penny Aumond and our interpreters are Malley Curley and Jacqeline Akeegoak. Also there is a technician and the press from CBC. This people are also with us. Does anyone from the special committee wish to speak. Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will use my own dialect. The Special Committee on Housing are visiting different communities and are welcomed all the time. We have to hear the concerns on housing matters. After we have heard it all, we will have a good idea of what the problems are. When the motion to form the committee was in February 1984 and a lot of Members supported this motion. Please feel free to speak on this matter so we can make some changes on housing matters. We will be passing these concerns on to managers of housing matters.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Any further comments? Mr. T'Selele.



MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have visited about seven communities in the Baffin so far. We have heard many different complaints about housing. We have heard good ideas about how housing in the NWI can be improved, some of the concerns about high rents, the possibility of people being evicted from their houses, poor construction. Some people say they would like to own their own houses, some people say that the district office in the Baffin is not responding quickly enough to their housing concerns. Some housing associations say they are not given enough money to run communities properly, they are not given enough power. We have heard complaints about southern contractors coming up and building houses without employing Inuit people. So those are some of the concerns that we have heard. I think that we can listen to them again. As the chairman said, we are not working for the Housing Corporation, we are independent of the Housing Corporation.

One other thing I would like to talk about, when Mrs. Lawrence talks about the differences between the Western Arctic and the Eastern Arctic -- the Northwest Territories is a big country. There are 60 different communities in the whole Northwest Territories. This is my first time in the Eastern Arctic. In the last 10 days, what has struck me most about the difference between the Eastern and Western Arctic is that the Housing Corporation is very powerful to the Inuit people. The Housing Corporation can make the difference between being cold or warm. So that is a very big power. I can see that many Inuit do not have much choice but to depend on the Housing Corporation for housing. Like Mrs. Lawrence says, in the Western Arctic we have a choice, we have trees, we can build our own house. So that has struck me about the Eastern Arctic. I think the committee recognizes that housing to Eastern Arctic people is going to have to be administered by the Housing Corporation in one form or another for quite a while.

I too want to thank you people for inviting us and I would like to listen to your concerns about housing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Thank you, John. The floor is now open to any person from the public. Please come up to the microphone and please do not talk too fast so the interpreters can pick up all your comments. If there is no further comment from the floor, we will have to adjourn the meeting. So I would like a quick response from the floor.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) If I had a good house I would not be here but I am not very happy where I am. I was anxious to come to this meeting because of my house. It is not my house because I still owe money on it. I am wondering if you can come and see my house?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Yes. We can only go and take a look at the houses if we are invited. If we cannot make it tonight, maybe we can look at it in the morning.

A SPEAKER (Male): (Translation) The housing association maintenance do not always maintain the houses even when you ask them to come and fix something. So therefore I would like someone to come and take a look at my house. In the winter, and when you are an older person it is not very satisfying because the toilet tank is always freezing and the interior of the house is falling apart. The pipes are almost starting to break and the furnace is starting to sink down. I am sure the pipe for the fuel will crack at some point in time. I think that the maintenance men for the housing association have given up because it is very hard to fix something when the houses are occupied. Also the housing association maintenance, hardly ever have proper parts. When you ask them to fix something, they cannot do it because of lack of parts. I feel that the housing association should have parts available here in Cape Dorset. When you are an older person, you do not want to live in a house that is falling apart, and this is why I am asking the housing association to fix up my house if they could.

I thought that I should bring up my concerns when there was a hearing, so that everyone, including the housing association maintenance could hear my views on these matters. If I have any other concerns that I want to bring up, I will certainly speak again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Could you please remain in your seat in case there are any questions from the special committee. Any questions? There are no questions at this time, but if you have any other concerns that you want to bring up, you can always come back. Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to come up? Could you please state your name?

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) I also am here to complain about the condition of my house, and I am very glad that you, the special committee are here to listen to our concerns. My house has a lot of damage, we can never get hot water and in the winter the house is always cold. It is a real inconvenience when you have babies laundry to do and you do not have hot water. They have been trying to maintain the house, but still it just falls apart because the house is so old. Because my house is in such bad condition, I would like very much for you to come and see it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Please do not move away from the table yet in case someone from the special committee has a question. Any question from the special committee? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Are there many other houses in Cape Dorset without hot water?

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) I do not know any other houses besides my own that do not have hot water.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Mrs. Lawrence.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you. I just want to make a comment that after this meeting we will be very happy to take a look at some of the homes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Can you give us a house number or tell us where your house is located?

A SPEAKER (Female): (Translation) It has a new number, and I think it is number 056.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Where is it located?

A SPEAKER (Female): On top of the hill.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any more questions from the special committee? Would anyone else like to come up and speak? Mr. Tommy Manning

MR. TOMMY MANNING: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My concern that I would like to bring up is regarding employees who have full-time and part-time jobs. I think that there should be some changes in the rent for the people that are working at part-time jobs. I have a daughter who has a part-time job. She works two and half days out of the week and has three children and also lives common law. They pay the same amount for rent as a person who has a full-time job. I am referring to anyone, not only my daughter. I am wondering if there is a system that they can adjust the rent for the people who are working part-time. Also, as Mr. Pudluk mention, I feel that the housing association maintenance should be allowed more parts to do proper maintenance in the homes that need to have work done. Thank you for listening to me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. I would like to say again that if you would like to speak in English or Inuktituk, please feel free because the translators can translate in either language. I would like further clarification on the comment that you made. Are you trying to say that people who have full-time jobs and part-time jobs are paying the same rent? Do you feel that this should change?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Yes, the person with a part-time job is paying the same rent as a full-time employee.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Does the special committee have any questions? Who would also like to come up to the table? Anyone?

MR. ASHIVAK EZEKIEL: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I want to touch upon what I know. Ever since the development of houses in Cape Dorset, even though they were small, it was convenient because we did not know they built other types of buildings. After they built these small houses they started building bigger units. When people started moving into these bigger buildings it gave us the idea of having better types of houses. At that time we were not really concerned about the rent because we were just glad to be able to move into bigger and more convenient units. Some people have running water and modern plumbing and they are living a more convenient life. Without these conveniences, it is very difficult to run back and forth from the tank and it gets tiring. We feel sorry for our wives who have to run back and forth from the tank

from the tank to the stove to make some hot water. We have heard that any person is allowed to have home-ownership, but when you think about the fuel bills and electricity bills, if a person wants to own their own home it is very expensive. You would pay more than if you were in a rented building. We hear from people that home-ownership is better. We would like to, but we do not have information on it. If we could have more information sources to find out if we would be paying the same bills whether we are employed or not, it would be a lot better. We could find out if there were subsidies for electricity and fuel bills.

Also, they always increase the rent on these older buildings or units and it does not seem fair. Some of them are in very bad condition and even though they were built in the same year, sometimes the padding or the foundation breaks and it needs a lot of repair, and yet we have to pay the same rent. They do not seem to care what type of houses it is, the rent still increases and that creates some problems. They should do all the repairs and fix up the padding, and if all the old buildings are renovated then they could increase the rent on them. Also, the furnaces, I know they have a long life but I feel that they should still be maintained and cleaned up after so many years. Only when the stove or the furnace breaks down somebody comes and sees it. It is probably because they are lacking maintenance employees. We have to face living inside these houses and they do not have enough spare parts for them. We feel that these spare parts should be more available so we would not have to wait a long time before they are repaired here in Cape Dorset. I am talking about the things that break down often. Whenever I put in a work order to the housing association the answer is always that there are no parts for it. Sometimes you have to wait for more than a year before the spare part arrives. I have been waiting for parts for a smoke detector for a long time. We have great concern in our house whether they will repair this broken part. I am going to wait here for a while so if you have any questions please feel free to ask me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the complaints that we have heard in every community is that the Housing Corporation forces the housing association to raise rents on buildings that have not been repaired. Do you think it would be fairer if the rents of buildings that are not repaired are lower than the rents of new buildings or buildings that have been repaired?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Yes, I would tend to like that more. It would not be so bad if they were renovated. If they are going to raise the rent, they should check the houses to see if the rent should go up according to the condition of the house.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any more questions? John?

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You were saying that sometimes something in your house breaks and that you go to the housing association and the housing association tells you that they do not have a part to fix your house. I would like to know what happens if your furnace breaks down and there is no part to fix it. What happens then?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Sometimes when the furnace has broken down the housing association maintenance has fixed it up. But right now I feel that if it not cleaned enough, it helps the furnace to break down. I have no idea how often they should be cleaned. The whole house starts smelling because they have not been cleaned out. I suspect it is from being dirty. It has not broken down that many times. My new parts were broken but they were able to be replaced. There are other things in the house that have been damaged and they do not get fixed up for a long time, like the floors, the foundation. There are a lot of other things in the house that get damaged.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further questions?

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The gentleman is concerned about his furnace being checked up or cleaned up. I would like to ask him has he ever seen a repairman clean up his furnace since he moved into his house?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Can you answer that? Can you repeat that again please?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Are you asking me that since I moved in has the furnace been cleaned up? We moved into the house when it was new. Everything was new, but later on because we used the same furnace we do not know after how many years they should be cleaned up.

We have never been told that it should be cleaned up in a certain month or a certain year, so sometimes the furnace does not run properly. It makes a lot of noise and it worries us that it might catch on fire since we do not know what kind of furnace we have. If we were given more information as to how often these furnaces should be cleaned, perhaps we would not worry too much about our furnace catching fire.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any more questions?

A SPEAKER (Male): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a supplementary to my question, he is wondering how many years or how many months a furnace should be cleaned. Well, since the first houses starting going up I went to school and trained on furnaces. Right now I am supposed to be a maintenance man and a qualified furnace oil burner mechanic. From my experience or from my training, the furnaces are supposed to be cleaned up once a year and checked regularly. The gentleman seems to be concerned about the safety of his furnace. I will ask him a question again. Does he think the the Housing Corporation or the housing association should notify the tenants since it has to do with the safety of the house and the tenants, to really know how often a furnace should be cleaned?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Can you understand that?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I am not the only one who should speak. I understand what you said but I am sure there are a lot of people who want to voice their concern. We have seen this problem too, that there are not enough maintenance workers. If they had a specific job, for instance as a plumber or a furnaceman, perhaps they would check the damaged area in houses. There will be more houses built and more problems will be coming up. Perhaps if they had more employees then they would check the furnaces regularly. There is so much work to do that they get behind in their work. There will be more work in the future for the housing association. Then perhaps we would not have to wait for more than a year before any damage in the house is looked into. the ground starts to melt from the padding, it adds to the damages of the house. But if they had a good padding, there would not be so much work to be done in the house. They should put the padding down for a year prior to building the house and make it solid with a heavy truck. I would like you to consider this.

Lastly -- because I have been speaking too long now -- we all want to have a convenient place to live. It is up to the Housing Corporation if we will get homes. We would like to have buildings with running water. The people should be moved into good buildings at the same time because even the young people are moving into very dirty buildings and it is a health hazard. I would like you to consider this. I am making too long of a speech so I would like to just thank you right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you, your speech has not been too long. Are there any further questions from the special committee?

MR. ANGOITUARQ: (Translation) My one question is, here in Cape Dorset some of the houses have steel foundations and some of them have wooden foundations, which would you prefer to have as a foundation?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I feel that the steel foundations are a lot better. I have never lived in this type of house but I see that they are not shifting like the ones that are touching the ground. I heard on the radio that the steel foundations are not good at all, so I do not know which one is better to use, I cannot really answer. But I feel they should have good padding and good foundations such as cement or concrete. Even though it is longer work and more expensive, it would probably prevent the house from breaking faster, and the buildings would last longer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have further comments? There was somebody who wanted to speak. Please step to the microphone. Please state your name because we are being recorded.

MR. EKALOOK PARR: (Translation) I would like to make a comment. The person who was sitting here had the same comments that I would like to make, so I will make a supplementary comment. I have been on the board of directors for the housing association. First of all, I would like to say I have been working here in Cape Dorset for a long time. I have worked in three different types of nursing stations, and this is the third one. Every time a nursing station has been built they have moved. I know the foundation has caused problems. We have heard on the radio too that the steel foundations are no good but even though they said that on the radio, I still feel that the steel foundations would be a lot better because they would be drilled right down inside the ground. The second nursing station had a padding of steel and only one side of the building was touching the

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ground. They had to change the nursing station because of this situation. There were a lot of drafts coming in from the walls. I think the concrete would be a lot better for foundations.

Some of us are staying in nice buildings such as rehabs and some of us stay in older buildings which have never been renovated. I am not against the housing association but when you try to communicate with the employees of the housing association, they never check the buildings and they do not even tell us when the increases will come. They tell us only after they have increased it. Some of us owe a large amount of money. We are told that because we have broken our house too much they have to increase the rent. Also, they have never reassessed the buildings but they still increase the rent. I feel that the Housing Corporation feels that every community is the same in the North. Even on Baffin Island there is a difference in each community and even the climate is different. So the houses should be different. I have a very strong concern about this and I feel that the housing associations should have more power in the community. Cape Dorset is the warmest place in the winter in Baffin. We still use outdoor heaters and other communities in the Baffin Region are a lot colder than this place. The ground freezes differently in different communities and I feel that the housing associations do not have enough power. The housing associations do not check the differences in rent on the buildings. We do not own these houses so we have to take good care of them. Another thing I would like to stress to you is that I moved here in 1975 and nothing was broken in the house up to now since 1975. The housing associations should have more responsibility of checking the houses in their communities, and that is all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you.

MR. ANSOYTTIAURUQ: (Translation) My question is, when they increase the rent do they increase the rent before you sign any papers?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Yes, what you said is true. We do not sign any papers. They just increase the rent. For a full year I overpaid my rent and I have asked them to give me a reimbursement but they still have not given it to me. My son was working for the housing association for a week but he has never been paid and he kept his hours regularly. I want to find out if any of you have worked for the Housing Corporation before?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Is there anybody here from the Housing Corporation? From my understanding we at these tables are not working for the Housing Corporation. We are Members of the Legislative Assembly. Do any Members of the special committee have any questions? Ainaq?

MRS. LAWRENCE: I just have one question. Are you saying that some people worked for the association and kept their hours but did not get paid?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I am saying my son was working for the association for a whole week and he never got paid for it.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Okay, that is all I wanted to know. My next question is, when you overpaid your rent and they did not reimburse you, did you still have to keep on paying the regular monthly rent payments?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I was paying \$82 a month, so I was paying over \$100 for a whole year, and after a year of making overpayments I found out that it was only supposed to be \$82 per month. Much later on I found out I was supposed to be paying less.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any more questions?

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A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not originally from Cape Dorset. I moved to Dorset in 1957 so I have been here for quite a while. I just want to say that the houses are not in very good condition. When the first three bedroom houses arrived, if I am not mistaken, I think there was only a few who were given out houses before they had the housing association board of directors. It was not too hard then but now it is very difficult even though they have a housing association here in Cape Dorset. I am going to talk first about the housing association because the housing association knows better about houses in their communities than the Housing Corporation. This winter I really noticed that they should have more power. Because they have no power at all they wanted to be dissolved. They should be given more power because they know the condition of houses in their own community. The Housing Corporation does not know the community but they give out houses just because they want money.

My wife and I used to have good employment and make good money. I worked for the co-op for quite a while so I was making a good salary. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that the reason I stopped working was because the house was getting into bad shape, and our rent was increasing so much. I felt that if I was making less money I would have to pay less rent. That is why I quit my employment. I will use my wife for an example. The Housing Corporation wants to deduct from her salary, deductions for retirement, insurance, all these things. I completely disagree with the Housing Corporation because the corporation wants to control this person's salary. I think this area has to be improved. The housing association should be given more power and more control because they know what is going on in the community. I have been thinking about this for a while. In 1958 I was in Greenland. Because the community in Greenland is very steep, not flat, I know that the bottom is permafrost. They do not have any basements. Their padding is made out of cement. I feel the padding should be cement because it would not damage the house. I want you to understand what I am saying. There has been some discussion about padding for the houses. I think they should be made out of cement because I feel this would decrease a lot of problems. I do not have much to say, but I wanted to bring up this main concern, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? They do not have a question right now because they understand what you said. Thank you.

MR. EKALOOK PARR: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I want to ask you a question. The old houses that have never been rehabbed, they start rotting as they get old. I wonder if you could make a rent scale for those old houses, to lower the rent and have a maximum scale for these old houses?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I know you asked us a question but we cannot answer your question right now.

MR. EKALOOK PARR: (Translation) Thank you. I will use another example so that you will understand clearly. If I left the food that I really like in the house and if it was rotten I would throw it away. It is the same thing with the houses. The houses are just like food. Even though the food is getting rotten, the Housing Corporation keeps raising the rent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question about home-ownership. I understand that there is a concern that if people own their own home the cost for power and fuel and water would be higher than in public housing. If the government paid a monthly grant to people who owned their own home, do you think there are people who would be interested in owning their own home?

MR. EKALOOK PARR: (Translation) I am not talking about people owning their house. I am talking about the tenants that are renting houses. I am talking about the deterioration of these houses. If I want back to the house that used to cost me \$65, it would cost over \$100.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Mike, would you like to make a supplementary?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that, and as the chairman said, we will look at that before we make our final recommendations. I was asking you a new question to do with home-ownership. If the government provided a subsidy to pay for the power, fuel, utilities, do you think that some people in your community would be interested in owning their own home?

MR. EKLOOK PARR: (Translation) Yes, definitely.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. John?

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had somebody here before talking about the furnaces and the poor condition of some rental houses. I would like to know what are the most common things that go wrong with rental houses? I would like to know what the maintenance men spend most of their time doing?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will probably not be able to answer to you because I am shy. I am an employee for DPW. I am not against housing maintenance. I do not really want to talk about some of the things that happen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have any further questions? Any further questions from the special committee? It is on a first come first serve basis.

MS KANAJUQ POOTOOGOOK: (Translation) First of all I would like to indicate to you when I was a child I experienced our first house. I did not understand the Housing Corporation at that time. Since the housing association started to exist here in the North I understand. I am working part-time for the school and my brother is working full-time and he also is a tenant in my house. The carvers in the community are paying high rent and I want to find out why. They have large families in one house, so I would like to get further information on that. These people have to pay for their food and also a large rent even though they are unemployed. Also, the house that we have been living in smells very moldy and even when you wash the building you can smell the mold. I want to find out if they can rehab it this coming spring or summer. I would like to get an answer on these questions. Also I feel that all these buildings should be rehabed at the same time. This is a great problem on my mind. I have just heard that they were going to refit the floor and the foundation has shifted. Once the foundation shifts the floor moves in one area and not another, and it seems that if you just touch the wall with your hand the whole building moves. I want to find out whether the Housing Corporation can fix up this building. I would like to get an answer for the questions I have asked.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Would some of you like to respond to that? Elizabeth?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had made a comment at the opening speech that we are unable to give answers. We are only here to listen to your views and concerns and what you are telling us now we will put that in our report and present it to the Assembly when we complete our tours, which will probably be around November.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have further comments to make?

MS KANAJUQ POOTOOGOOK: (Translation) I am going to make a brief statement. I would like to stress once again about the house, if we have to move to a different house. I think it would be better if we just are moved to different houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. John, do you want to make a presentation?

MR. T'SELEIE: Yes, I wanted to ask you if you pay the same rent even if you live in a house that is not in good shape, or do you pay less rent?

MS KANAJUQ POOTOOGOOK: (Translation) Personally I do not know. If I were to move to a worse house I would just move to my mom's and I would definitely disagree if they ask me to move to a house in worse condition than the one that I am presently staying in.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you understand?

MR. T'SELEIE: No, Mr. Chairman, I think my question was misunderstood. What I wanted to ask was, is there a different in the rent that people pay to live in a house that is not repaired? Do people pay less than if they were in a house that has been repaired?

MS KANAJUQ POOTOOGOOK: (Translation) Yes, I understand now. I have a comment on that question. The housing association knows I am a part-time employee and I was asked to pay \$135 per month, and the house is not in very good condition. When it gets wet it creates a health hazard. I have tried to find out if they can rehab or retrofit the building and also for the padding. I want to get my house rehabbed. I do not know what the rents are for the different types of building. I cannot answer that question. I have been working as an assistant teacher since 1981 and I was asked to pay \$135 and that is all that I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have any supplementary questions? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to explain one problem that the government has right now. There is limited money, or there is not enough money in the government budget to provide all the new houses and to rehab old houses. That is one reason why all the houses in your community cannot be rehabbed at the same time. Every community has the same problem and there is not enough money to do it all. What we have to find out, if the people in the communities think that housing is the most important problem then we might recommend that more money is spent on housing. Do you think housing is the most important problem in your community?

MS KANAJUQ POOTOOGOOK: (Translation) I know that people who do not have houses have quite a bit of problem because I have noticed at the housing association meetings that this is always the problem.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further comments?

MS KANAJUQ POOTOOGOOK: (Translation) Since there are no further questions I have no further comments to make. I would like to thank you for letting me ask my questions.

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) Thank you. First of all I would like to answer some of the questions that were raised. For example about rehabing old houses, the housing association here in our community, since they have no power or control as to which houses should be rehabbed, the Housing Corporation fixes the houses at their own discretion. If the housing association in our community had some control, they would choose the houses which should be rehabbed. There is a lack of communication between the housing association and the Housing Corporation. Those are the two things that I wanted to bring up. I will use another example. This year we are ordering parts for our houses that will be brought up by sealift, which the Housing Corporation calls capital items such as stoves, fridges, freezers. We sent this order to the Housing Corporation and when the Housing Corporation received this order they took out the refrigerators and stoves that we had ordered. We have not been told yet. We found out because we questioned our order because we wanted to find out what we should order before the sealift time in summer.

The Housing Corporation does not say how much money is available for capital items. They never give us any information as to how you can order these parts or these capital items. They do not even send us forms to order these capital items. This has been creating a lot of problem in our community and it is all because there is lack of information available from the Housing Corporation to the housing association.

I have another example of lack of communication coming out of the Housing Corporation. We have been expecting a storage room this year. The corporation waited until the last minute to tell us it was not coming even though we still wanted it. We are renting a co-op building. The building we are using for storage in the co-op costs us over \$1000 a month because we have to pay for the electricity and fuel. If we had our own storage room perhaps the money we use to rent that room could be used to order more parts. Also, the Housing Corporation never tells us about their operation. Even when we are working with the Housing Corporation we never know what they are doing at any time. We heard that the housing federation will not be given any more funding by the Housing Corporation. The housing federation is the only one that we can communicate with and if they dissolve this housing federation, all the communities are going to get weaker. We cannot have any input in the Housing Corporation if the housing federation is dissolved or not given any



funding. When the communities meet with each other and exchange their problems they could have more power and control, but the Housing Corporation does not want to give them power or control to do the things they want. When the housing association stops our orders they do not even tell us. If the housing association has any questions for the Housing Corporation they do not easily get an answer because the Housing Corporation looks at the housing association as nothing. We have some recommendations that we would like to bring up. I think the Housing Corporation should receive the minutes of the housing association meetings and vice versa.

The Housing Corporation never tells us what programs are stopped. For us who are living in the communities, we would like to know the operation of the Housing Corporation and what they are doing. They should tell us how much funding is supposed to be allocated to different communities and what is available so we would be more careful in using these funds in different projects. We would not be estimating or guessing, because sometimes we have to just guess because we do not have enough information from the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation should work more closely with us in order to keep up the houses that the people are using. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ariooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Your presentation was very clear. The storage space in Cape Dorset has been delayed. I have checked about this, and when the BRC had their meeting, that is when I found out this storage space was not coming to Cape Dorset. When we had a meeting in Fort Smith I asked a supplementary question and they told me the storage space was still coming here, but the people who are being contracted increased their money to build the storage space and that was the reason why they were not going to build it even though the materials will be arriving. You will receive the storage space this summer but it will not be built this year. Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your presentation was very clear and was very helpful to us. All of your concerns we have heard in other communities, so your presentation will make our argument stronger when we make our final recommendations. I have some questions on some other subjects that you did not mention in your presentation. One concern that we heard in other communities was that if new houses were built or houses were rehabed they brought in southern contractors and used southern workers on the projects. Do you find the same problem here where there is not enough opportunity for local people to work on new houses or on rehabs?

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is the case here. When they were building new buildings they had many southerners up here to build these houses. The same people who did rehabs had more local employees. When the federation had their meeting, the housing association wanted to bring up the subject that the contractors should, if at all possible, hire more local people. Does that answer your question?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, it does, thank you. I have another question. We heard that the Housing Corporation used to provide training to people in the communities so they could work at building new houses or rehabs. We have heard though that in the past two years there is no training provided. I wonder, is this a problem in your community?

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) Yes, definitely. It is the case in our community. If our young people were given more training on these buildings it would help them a lot. Since they have no employment they just walk around town and they do not get further education. I probably did not answer you correctly.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, you did. It is quite clear. I have one last question. You told us that the housing federation will not be funded in the future, and you said that the housing federation is very important. Now I wonder if you think that we should recommend that the housing federation should get more funding and maybe as an example, get more power that instead of the Housing Corporation deciding which communities get houses or get rehabs, that the housing federation should decide which communities need new housing or need rehabs. Do you think that would be better?

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) Definitely. If that was the case it would be a lot better. The housing associations in the communities should have more power and the Housing Corporation should lose some power. I think that you should work hard on these matters because we do not want to see the housing federation dissolved. If they lose their funding, they will go right back to where they started, and the Baffin Island is supposed to work together.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): John?

MR. T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions for you. I would like to know what your job is. If you are working for housing then how many houses do you service and how many people do you have working for you on maintenance? I would also like to know what is the most common problem that you have with rental housing here in Cape Dorset.

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) I am assistant secretary in the housing association. We have four employees. The main problem that I see in Cape Dorset is the windows which break easily and also doors, and doorknobs. We use a lot of doorknobs each year and this is the main common problem in the houses. There are also other problems besides these and we always have to rush and we are never caught up in the maintenance. There are probably around 60 work orders per month that we have to handle.

MR. T'SELEIE: I would also like to know how many houses you work on.

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) There are 139 units in Cape Dorset and we handle 134 buildings because five of those buildings are not occupied because some of them are burnt.

MR. T'SELEIE: You were telling us that the Housing Corporation never lets you know how much money is available to the housing association each year. I know that the way the Housing Corporation works is that they work in every community in the Northwest Territories and the people here have been told basically that the way it works is that the elected people, whoever makes the most noise for their region for housing gets the most. For instance, in my region there was a very bad housing shortage and I made more noise than Mike Ballantyne about it, even though Mike Ballantyne might have somebody in his region that really needs housing badly. If I make more noise than he does, then I would get it. Some of us here do not really think that that is a fair way to determine the need for housing. I just want to ask you how you feel about that.

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) I do not really understand. Can you further clarify what you are trying to say?

MR. T'SELEIE: I guess I am trying to ask how should the Housing Corporation determine what kind of budget you need from year to year. How should they determine whether you need additional housing? It is obvious in some ways that just needing housing is not what they are basing their allocation on from one area to another.

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) We know about our operating budget for the year but we are not informed about O and M and we are not told about how much capital operating money we will be having. We could apply for this funding, but we do not know how much money they have available to the communities. If they communicate more with us and give us more ordering papers, then we will be able to request information. When the regional director was here they called for a study as to which communities should have houses and we gave that to the Housing Corporation. We have heard that Frobisher will be receiving four-plexes. The younger people that are getting married and raising kids, I think these duplexes should be coming into the communities so that the younger people could have a place to stay. A lot of the young married people are staying in great numbers in one house with their parents. I think it would be better if they were separated. I think we need more smaller houses for the younger people so they can have a place to stay in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further questions from the special committee?

MR. ANGOTTITAUURUQ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since our tour we have heard that the local housing associations lack power and I am quite sure if the housing association requests that the Housing Corporation would turn around and say that local housing associations do not have the education to run their own affairs. I am going to ask you a question. Since this is not 1920, this is 1984, today there are some younger people who have passed their high school education. Do you think that local housing associations with their secretary managers are capable of running their own housing needs?

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) Yes, definitely. What you said is quite true. The local housing association here and their secretary managers could run their housing situation, but they are being stopped by the Housing Corporation because they are refusing to give them more power and more control. If they are given an opportunity to run the housing in the communities we would have a better housing situation. If the housing association has the control then they would be able to order the parts that they need. For instance when we order some parts and give it to the Housing Corporation they eliminate a lot of the things that we had ordered. A lot of times they do not even tell us what they are going to take off from our original order. We have to try and find out what is happening, and until then we can do nothing else because we have no power whatsoever. That is it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further comments?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand clearly what he said and he gave me the information I needed. I just want to say thank you now because it was very interesting and I really enjoyed hearing it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the housing association was given more power and because housing is so important in the community, the housing association would be as strong as the hamlet council. Can you see that causing problems? When you have two very strong organizations in one community could there be a conflict between the two organizations?

MR. PINGUAQTUQ OOTOOKIE: (Translation) I do not think so because right now we are working very closely together with the hamlet council. The community should be given the opportunity to have some power, not just being pushed around from another place. If they both had power it would make the community a lot stronger. Thank you.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you very much, you answered my question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any further questions? I think there was somebody else who wanted to speak up.

MS QUJUQ ETIDLLOI: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not originally from Cape Dorset. I am going to ask a question that you could direct to the appropriate department. I am living in a rehab house and I have also asked for a house but I have never been told anything. I have five kids in my house and my boyfriend is also living with me and we only have a two bedroom house. I want you to ask a question for me to see if the people who have more kids should have more bedrooms in the building than fewer family members living in a larger unit? Also, for those unemployed people if they are renting public houses, should they pay over \$100 rent? When you are not working and you are trying to pay for rent, it adds up on the money you owe although you catch up sometimes with your rent. In wintertime the house gets really cold. It is not too bad in summertime. When they get rehabbed the heating system should not be on the roof of the building. It would be better if they made the heating system on the floor. I think that is all that I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? There are no questions here, so if you do not have any further comments I would like to thank you.

MS QUJUQ ETIDLLOI: (Translation) I would also like to thank you and I would like you to direct my questions to the appropriate departments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Are there any other questions?

MR. SAKIASEE RAGEE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am working for the housing association. I have been a furnaceman since 1972. I did not know anything about it but I started getting trained since then so I have been working on it up to now. We are being trained on the furnaces. We were told to check on the furnaces every two weeks and we have been trying to keep up the checks on the furnaces. If you do not believe me, it is written in the office, and this is what I wanted to bring up. If the furnaces are not checked regularly they cannot keep on working. I do not think they can even last two months without proper checking. We should check with our wives to find out if the maintenance men have checked the furnaces. When I heard in the meeting that they have never been checking the furnaces, I did not believe that because we have never had that experience when we are working. It is dangerous not to check these furnaces, so we

have to regularly check the houses. Sometimes they do not work immediately after they have been cleaned because there is some water inside some of them because of the cleaning. When you are an employee and always check the furnaces, it is very hard to take when people start saying that their furnaces are not being well checked. I am not angry but I just would like to state my understanding too.

If there are further comments I can respond to that because I know there are a lot of furnaces in the building. The furnaces are not very easy to clean because the tenants feel they are just like stoves and they burn constantly, which is not the case. Some of the people who stay at home know that we check and we never miss that day. It is only May that we have missed this year since I have started work because we were listening to what our superiors were telling us and because of that we had to miss the month of May to check the furnaces. Our secretary manager is very difficult to deal with and we have to listen to him instead of telling him about these upkeep that we have to make. The numbers are written down once they are cleaned and you can even see the office to get proof that they have been cleaned. They are written every month. It might look like I am angry right now even though I am not.

I would like to thank you for coming to this community because I want to see the housing associations get further assistance. Even though we try and order some materials, some parts are still missing. Due to the fact that I do not understand English I felt bad when they asked me to become a furnaceman, but they forced me to become a furnaceman and I have been checking these furnaces. Some of them have had problems before but they have not had major problems. I know that if somebody else takes over my job these are going to be well kept. I do not really have any comments and I will try and respond to any comments concerning furnaces that are being made by the public.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for your presentation. You probably can solve the problems in the operations that are being created here in Cape Dorset by yourself so I am going to ask my fellow colleagues whether they have comments to make. They have no questions. Your comments have helped and I would like to thank you.

MS PELALOOSIE GAILA: (Translation) The reason why I sat here is because I have concerns too. We are also renting a house. It was built in 1972 but it is worse than some of the other buildings. We had to move in even though there were some mistakes by the people who built that unit. If somebody was to see it, they would see it as very old. Nails are sticking out on the floor, it is sagging and we even have cuts on our feet. Our socks are pulled from our feet because the floor is badly broken right now. The Housing Corporation should look after the southern contractors when they are constructing these buildings in the North to see if they are doing a proper job. Our house has four bedrooms and it is slanted and some things that fall on the floor roll down due to the fact that it is slanted very much.

The buildings should have good padding before they are constructed. There are cracks opening in the floor and you can even see outside from inside and you worry about the winter. We are worried that it is not going to last a long time even though we are paying good rent and keeping up with the rent. If it is not going to be fixed or renovated it is not going to last very long, even though they have said that they will make the renovations. It is very difficult when you have children. Even the sewage cannot be pumped out of the sewage tank because it freezes at night. The windows were even broken when we moved in and they are still broken. They cannot renovate the sewage tank even though it freezes at night. Sometimes they have to heat it up before they can pump out the sewage.

I have another concern. Some of us Inuit have very bad units. In the past when people had health problems such as TB, they were told that they would be moved into good buildings because of health hazards, but right now even though the houses are new they get old and moldy very fast. These people could have lived longer but they are dying because of the house problems. Right now they are even starting to have cancer. It is probably from the houses too. We never used to hear that in the past, but now we are finally listening to these different health hazards such as cancer. It is probably from the house because there is a lot of moisture inside the building and it gets a lot of mould.

Also, we have a water tank which is plastic and very small and it does not last for one week and it gets quite difficult to live when there is no water being delivered to our house. They only have one water truck and it is not capable of handling all of the communities so some of us have to be without water for a whole week. Sometimes the water tank is not large enough for the whole community. When I imagine looking at the inside of the water tank I feel sick because it looks so

dirty and there is no opening so you can clean the inside of the water tank. When we used to live in a house with no running water we used to have to clean the water tank once a week. The water tanks we have right now must be pretty dirty and rusty because we have rusty water. In wintertime we usually get our own ice so we can have proper drinking water. It is very dangerous to have a rusty tank when you have small children. The Housing Corporation has too much power and the housing association board of directors has no power. The Housing Corporation should be the only one that is blamed. They just steal money from people. They are even stealing from those who are unemployed, who are not making a living. These are the things I wanted to bring up, so if you have any questions, I will just wait.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. I have a question. Would it be okay for someone to see your house?

MS PELALOOSIE GAILA: (Translation) Sure, I would definitely want you to come and see it. The number is 004, past the small river. It is almost at the end of the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We will come and see it tomorrow morning. Are there any questions from the committee? Since they have no questions they understood what you said and we will go and see your house. Do you have any further comments you would like to make?

MS PELALOOSIE GAILA: (Translation) No, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) There was also Annie Manning who wanted to speak.

MS ANNIE MANNING: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to voice the concerns I have. The housing association has no control because of the Housing Corporation, I want you to work hard and deal with the Housing Corporation so that the housing associations can have more control. Right now the house we are living in was built in 1970. Their original plan was to renovate it in 1977-78, that is what our understanding was. But the buildings that were built more recently than our house have already been renovated and rehabed and they are a lot newer than the one we are staying in. I would like you to push hard for inspectors for the housing association who can check up on the houses. The Housing Corporation does not know what should be done within the communities.

Our house is very small, especially with more than two kids. It is not very good when you have to live there for very long. It is a three bedroom house and I am just going to guess the size of the building. I think it is 28 feet wide and 28 feet long. The furnace should be set up outside. They should have a small room outside the house where the furnace could be and it would be more convenient that way. The house would have more space. When it is windy outside the furnace has to work a lot harder and it gets pretty scary when it is on too long. When the door is opened and closed frequently it makes the furnace run for a long time, so I feel that the furnace should be in a small space outside the unit. This is the main thing that I wanted to bring up. The house is deteriorating because we have been living in it a long time. We try to look after it and it is very expensive and my husband is not making all that much money. I should help out but I only work part-time. Sometimes I feel that since I am working part-time it increases the rent. I think the rent should be checked into because the house is deteriorating. This is what I wanted to bring up to you so you could direct it to the appropriate department. I do not have more to say right now. If you have questions I do not know if I will be able to answer them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are you finished?

MS ANNIE MANNING: (Translation) I think the older people should be considered. The people in the community are concerned with the older people. I think they should have convenient houses because they cannot help themselves properly. When they do not have someone in the house who is very strong to assist them it is hard for the old people and I think they should be considered very seriously.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Yes, we understand. Are there any questions from the special committee? Since they have no questions, do you have any further comments?

MS ANNIE MANNING: (Translation) No, not right now, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Your concerns have been taped. I do not know how long we will be meeting here and I think the interpreters are getting tired. There were three of them and

now there are only two. If there are a lot of people who want to speak maybe we can take a break. Adame also wanted to speak.

ADAMIE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I want to ask you are you collecting the concerns that you will bring up to the Housing Corporation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Yes, we will tell the Housing Corporation and also we will bring it up to the Legislative Assembly.

ADAMIE: (Translation) I just want to support the people who have been voicing their concerns about the problems that we face. The housing association board should get more control and more power. I have a problem too. I live in a house with a furnace. We have heard that the people who will be receiving rehabs have been told to find someplace to stay before the house is rehabed. The house is in pretty good shape compared to the other ones that do not have furnaces, only stoves. If the housing association had more responsibility then they would find out which buildings have to be renovated first. The Housing Corporation just walks around and just finds out from the exterior of the building, not from the interior. So I am in full support that the housing association be given more responsibility and more power and control within the community. The policies are made by the Housing Corporation and are finally given to the housing associations and it creates hardship for the housing associations because they have to follow these certain rules. The Housing Corporation does not even listen when the housing associations suggest policies. I do not have any more to say but if you have any questions I will be available to answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. We understand exactly what you have to say. This is not the first time we have heard the concern, and your support I am sure will help us. Are there any questions from the special committee? There are no questions so we will just say thank you. I think there was somebody else who raised their hand to speak. Mr. Tukiki Oshuetuk.

MR. TUKIKI OSHUETUK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a house in Cape Dorset which was one of the first houses that was built. It is called a matchbox in English. There were a lot of problems when the housing association came to check it. The house was supposed to be written off because these old buildings have to be replaced. My house is quite dangerous because it only has one door. If there was a fire I would not have an exit. It has no stove with elements and a heater. The heater is too big for the building so it is too hot all the time. Also the ceiling is too low. The lights we have are not for households but for an office and that is a problem.

I also have the same problems too that were stressed earlier in wintertime, that the floor is drafty and very cold even though the high part of the building is very hot. That creates problems. When it is too hot inside it creates a health hazard because you have a hard time breathing. It creates respiratory problems. It is not level. Some parts of the house are very high. This building had burnt before and there has been no renovation done, and when it is windy you can really smell the smoke damage when it had burnt. It is clear that it was not rebuilt properly after it burnt. This house is almost 20 years old because it was probably built around 1966. I feel that the younger people are not given proper homes in the community, which are called apartments. One unit has quite a number of apartments. I wonder if the Housing Corporation could build apartments in the communities for young people or families without too many children, or only a couple? I discussed two things, the problem with my house, and the need for an apartment in Cape Dorset. Feel free to ask me any question on the comments I just made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for letting us understand. I will ask the special committee members if they have any remarks. Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think your comment about the need for apartment buildings for young people and single people is very good. Has the housing association talked to the young people and asked them if they would like to live in an apartment building? Perhaps it could be one unit with eight one-bedroom apartments.

MR. TUKIKI OSHUETUK: (Translation) I have never seen or experienced the housing association asking the young people whether they would want to see an apartment building in Cape Dorset. For the other communities that have apartments it seems as though it is very convenient, especially if there is a shortage of houses. If they built apartments there would not be the problem of shortage of houses because there would be more room for families. But I am sorry, I have never been asked or approached to find out whether an apartment should be built here in the community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It might be helpful to the committee if the housing association talked to the young people and asked them if they would like to live in an apartment and write out committee a letter to tell us if the young people would like to live in an apartment building.

MR. TUKIKI OSHUETUK: (Translation) I definitely would like to see a survey done here in the communities because it would be a good experience if they built an apartment building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for giving us a good understanding of your concerns. I do not want to stop the meeting, but the interpreters are the only mechanism that is running this meeting so I would want to see shorter remarks, because we still have one community tomorrow. Even if we are not finished you can still give us a call on the telephone or write us a letter. I do not want to stop the meeting, but all I am saying is that the presentations should be brief.

MR. IOLA TUNILI: (Translation) I have a further comment and it is going to be brief. My father got a house from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs when he was working for that department. When he completed his employment he received that house without paying for it because it was government property. The government gave it to my father when I was a young lad. This was given to my father but how come the housing association had to take over that building without any payment or understanding? I would want the Members of the Legislative Assembly to give us an answer about why. My father was not given any letter stating that the housing association owns this house now. The housing association just decided to take over that building. My father was not even given one dollar for the building that was given to him by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and now the tenants are now paying rent to the housing association. I want this comment to be given to the Housing Corporation management. You, the Legislative Assembly, should find out by talking to the person who was working for Indian Affairs, and the person who used to be the administrator here in this community when my father was given that house. We know that that administrator is living down in Ottawa presently.

I want an indication from you on how we can get assistance in order to get that building back. The Housing Corporation has stolen the house because we did not have any papers. Papers were not really being used at that time and we did not know that papers were important materials then. For that reason the housing association just decided to take over. If you have questions concerning this unit I would like to try and answer to my ability.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I do not think we will get any information until we get to the Housing Corporation, so we can check with the housing association tomorrow as to what is the situation with that house. I want to ask the committee if they have any questions. Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: I would just like to ask, when did your dad retire and when did the housing association decide to take that house away?

MR. IOLA TUNILI: (Translation) My father stopped working for the Local Government in the early 1960s and we moved out of the house in 1968. Since then it has been occupied by the housing association. My father had to pay for the fuel and the electricity because he owned that house. Once we moved to public housing my father had to start paying according to the policies of the housing association. If he did not own it he would not have paid for the electricity and fuel. I do not have that much more to say. These are the main things that I wanted to bring up. I will try to talk to the Housing Corporation and to the representative because we will just lose that house, and the Housing Corporation and the housing association are making money out of it even though they have not bought it from us. So I would like you to look into it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. I think there was somebody else who wanted to speak. Iola Tunili.

MR. IOLA TUNILI: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is ?? from Cape Dorset. I will try to make my comments brief. I am also renting a house from the Housing Corporation and I am going according to the policies of the Housing Corporation. I also want the housing association here to get more power and control, not just be the workers for the Housing Corporation. The housing association is just looking after the Housing Corporation's houses and a lot of times they do not get approval for what they want and they want them to look after the houses properly through the housing association. The Housing Corporation is always refusing their requests. They should have a better working relationship because they are trying to work for the same thing. They should

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work together. This is what I wanted to say. I am sure there are a lot of things that I wanted to say but we do not have much time to speak our concerns, so I would like to say thank you for allowing me to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? They have no questions because they understood what you meant. Because it is taped they will not forget it.

MR. OSHOSIAQ PUDLAT: (Translation) I will not try to make my comments too long. The first concerns that were brought up earlier, I just want to make an addition. If I talk too long I will stop making sense. I was listening to the people talk about the padding of the houses, that they are not made out of cement or rock, they are sort of sand. They are not properly done. The weather in other regions does not get as cold as we do. Up north we have winters and summers and the ground melts and it freezes. When it freezes, the buildings that are on sand have a lot of problems. It is the same on the unit we are renting. The floor is breaking up all the time, deteriorating. The floor does not stay level when the snow melts or when the summer comes.

I am going to talk about the new houses that are being built. They will have better padding because their padding is not made out of sand. The corners of the houses will not deteriorate as fast. The new houses are a lot better than the old houses that we are renting now and there are not as many problems. I am saying these things that I have been thinking about because the north is very harsh to live and the house changes from winter to summer and the houses are always cracking up, especially the windows. Because we own more things now there is not much space in these rehabed houses, this is what I feel. So I think this will create problems for the other people, that is why I am bringing it up. I do not know whether it is that way or not. The houses that have sand padding have a lot of problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We also thank you for voicing your concern. Are there any questions? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment on your statement. You are correct when you say that houses built on rock are better. We have the same problem in Yellowknife. I have a small house which is on a gravel pad on permafrost and every year my house shifts. Last year I could not close the back door and I had to put many blankets over the opening of the door. And every spring I have to crawl under my house and jack up the house to make it level. It is a big problem in the north when houses are built on permafrost. I do not have the answers but I want you to know that we have the same problem in parts of the west and our committee will be studying the best way to build houses in the north. Thank you for your comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Before everybody leaves I think we should end the meeting. I think somebody from the floor could close the meeting so I just want to say from what I have been hearing there seems to be three main topics. There are some directed to you, some directed to the Housing Corporation and some directed to the housing association. I think you have all heard these problems and you will consider them. I will be coming back here to Cape Dorset because I live in Lake Harbour, so if anybody else has some concerns they want to bring up they can talk to me. If it is okay with you I think we should end the meeting. Perhaps somebody can make some comments before we close the meeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) It is okay that we end the meeting since you are the acting chairman for the hamlet. So before I close the meeting are there any comments from the special committee?

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MR. SWAIN BARR: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if I will be understood clearly. I guess my dialect is a bit different although I am Inuk. I would like very much to thank you for voicing the different concerns that you have. We are the special committee on housing, although we are not working for the Housing Corporation. We are Members of the Legislative Assembly and we want to hear from different communities. We were able to ask some questions. We are not trying to get the people in the communities to hate each other or go against each other. We are here just to listen and make housing better for the future and so I would just like to thank the people here because they have some very good concerns which they brought up here in the community of Cape Dorset.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktor): (Translation) Are there any further closing remarks? I do not think there are any further comments from the special committee. I did not expect so many of you to turn out especially in the spring and the weather outside, but you have a lot of concerns on housing and we really understand, and we are glad that there was a good turnout. These concerns are going to help us when we try to make some recommendations. I know you have not completed your comments in this very short time, but I, as the chairman, am not supposed to overwork the employees, but I will always be available to this community. Around 10:00 o'clock in the evening we will be visiting 086, 057, 004, those houses that have invited us. I will be visiting this community for the next three years and please take a note of that. Thank you. Who would like to close the meeting on the floor? Those people agree that the meeting should close please raise their hands. Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.

---ADJOURNMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Verbatim Transcripts  
of Community Hearings

LAKE HARBOUR

June 14, 1984

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Co-Chairmen: Mr. Ludy Pudluk,  
MLA, High Arctic

Mr. Arnold McCallum,  
MLA, Slave River

Regular Members: Mr. Joe Arlooktoo,  
MLA, Baffin South

Mrs. Eliza Lawrence,  
MLA, Tu Nedhe

Mr. Red Pedersen,  
MLA, Kitikmeot West

Mr. John T'Seleie,  
MLA, Sahtu

Alternate Members: Mr. Michael Angottitauruq,  
MLA, Kitikmeot East

Mr. Michael Ballantyne,  
MLA, Yellowknife North

Mr. Elijah Erkloo,  
MLA, Foxe Basin

Mr. Samuel Gargan,  
MLA, Deh Cho

OFFICERS

Committee Co-ordinator: Ms Penny Aumond

Clerk Assistant (Procedures): Mr. Albert Canadien

Secretary to the Committee: Ms Melody Casserly

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

HAMLET COUNCIL AND HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF LAKE HARBOUR, JUNE 14, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We will start the meeting now. We are very happy that you have asked to meet with us, the hamlet and the housing association. I am the chairman right now. We had a chairman and a co-chairman when we were visiting the communities. It was Ludy Pudluk and Arnold McCallum. They had other things that they had to do and had to get home. So that is why I was asked to be the chairman and I accepted. We are very happy that we are here in Lake Harbour right now. This committee is a bit tired but they wanted to keep on going on the tour. We have a quorum of four. Even though they come from quite far away they wanted to continue this tour.

I will introduce the committee right now. At the far left on my left is John T'Seleie who represents Sahtu. And on my nearest left Michael Angottitauruq from Kitikmeot East and you all know me here. On my nearest right is Eliza Lawrence representing the Tu Nedhe region in the Western Arctic, and on my far right is Mike Ballantyne from Yellowknife North. They are the special committee and we have a co-ordinator, a lady who is taking pictures, Penny Aumond. We have two interpreters, Malli Curley from Frobisher and Japatee Akeegoak from Grise Fiord. Although he is from the top of the world he has been helping us very well. And there are some media people. Ludy Pudluk, Arnold McCallum and Red Pedersen that are not here with us today.

I just want to let you know what we are doing as a committee. We are with the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and we are not from the Housing Corporation, nor are we from the territorial government. We are sort of in between these two organizations. We are representing you people. We will not be able to answer some of your questions because we are here to listen to your concerns but we will be asking some questions. Once your concerns are recorded and transcribed we will try to get you some answers and perhaps after a year we will know what kind of improvements are going to result from this committee. Those are my opening comments. We will also have a public meeting where I will go and talk a bit more. If any special committee Members want to make some comments it is wide open, or the hamlet council or the housing association. Eliza has some comments.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just make a short comment. I would like to thank the council and the board of directors of the association for inviting us here. I wish I could say that we are here to answer all the questions and solve the problems immediately, but we are only here to listen to your views and concerns so that we can make good recommendations. We really need your help. Thank you all for inviting us here.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Is there anybody from the special committee that wants to make some comments? We will be listening mostly to your concerns so any one of you can start now. Anything at all. John T'Seleie?

MR. T'SELEIE: Mr. Chairman, I think maybe if we could have the council introduce themselves to us and proceed from there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for reminding me. I think I know everybody if you want me to introduce you people. The one I am pointing at is Eliyah Paupadluk who is the vice-chairman of the hamlet council. Johnny Akavak who is a councillor for the hamlet. Esuaktuk Akavak also is a councillor for the hamlet. He also looks after maintenance and the roads. These are the ones from the hamlet. Their secretary-manager is Andrew Johnson. I am also the councillor here for the hamlet in Lake Harbour. Oolamie Temela is the chairman of the housing association's

board of directors. I did not want to say this, but I am also the vice-chairman for the housing association board of directors. And Joannie Ikkidluak, one of the board members of the housing association, and sitting beside him, Simoneak Segtaktuk, board of director of housing. Jamesie Kootoo, also on the board of directors for the housing association. I do not think I forget anybody. Yes, I forgot somebody, Akeagn Ikkidluak, a very good secretary-manager for the housing association. Now if anybody has any concerns you want to bring us you can start now. Olamie Timilaaq.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) We have some concerns from the people of Lake Harbour about housing and about the rent. We have them written down. I wonder would it be more appropriate if we talk about them right now or at the public meeting?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I think it will be okay if you just proceed. Once we have the public meeting we can repeat them, that will be okay too.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) We have heard the concerns of the people in Lake Harbour. We have asked the special committee on housing to come to Lake Harbour so we tried to get information from the people as to what concerns they had about housing and about the rent they are paying. I will read what is written. These are the concerns that were collected from the people. First of all, regarding the rent, they are calculated from the yearly salary, and we do not want an assessment done for a whole year when they are checking up on our salary for the rent that we will have to pay. Sometimes the man and wife work at the same time and are supposed to get \$75. The pocket money of \$75 should go into the pocket instead of helping to pay for the rent. It is very difficult for a person to pay the rent when they have the maximum scale. The \$75 subsidy on housing is too small. We feel that should go to the householder or the husband instead of the spouse. People do not like the idea of the rent increasing all the time. The rent is too high before the Housing Corporation assess the buildings.

Another concern is the types of buildings but the rent is the same and people want to find out whether the rent can be deducted when you file your income tax. And how come the rent scale is set up at the gross pay, before deductions. The rent increases \$45 every three months. The people feel they should raise the rent only after one year. If they have to increase by \$35 it is very difficult for a person to keep up with the rent. The carvings are very cheap now and it is very difficult for the carvers to try to pay up their rent, and the wives usually have to support the family, and they feel that that \$75 should be included as a subsidy for rent. If I did not say it properly I can get somebody else.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. We will be following the items as they are numbered. Are there any questions on number one item? Questions from the special committee? Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: I am sorry, but I am not quite clear on that \$75. What is that?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Thank you. The people feel that they pay so much money for rent and if their wives are working, the \$75 is supposed to be the pocket money and the rest goes to the rent. Once the wife gets paid, the rest of the \$75 that she receives for salary has to go to the housing association for rent, along with her husband's. So we feel that this \$75 should be included for the rent instead of the rest of her salary. Do you understand now?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any other questions from the special committee regarding the rent? Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like for you to explain to me, when you said that they should not count the whole year's salary when the Housing Corporation does their assessment, perhaps you can explain to me what you mean by that?

MR. JOANIE IKKIDLUAK: (Translation) I think there was a misunderstanding. If our salary has to be assessed by the Housing Corporation for a whole year -- for example, if I am making \$20,000 or \$30,000 range we will have to put 25 per cent of that salary into rent. The rent that I paid in 1983 was already taken off from my salary for the year of 1983. Also they do not calculate the rent I paid when I pay next year's rent that I would have to pay. That is what I think I understand but maybe you can make some further comments on that if you are not clear. Are you still confused?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I think they understand now. Are there further comments other than the topic on rent? Mr. Ballantyne.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You made a comment that different houses are in different condition, some are better than others, but the rent is the same for all the houses. Do you think that there should be lower rent for the houses that are not fixed up? The second part of the question is, if you wanted to fix up your own house and the Housing Corporation said you would pay lower rent because you are fixing up your own house, do you think that would be a good idea?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Would any of you like to answer the question that was just asked? Jamesie Kootoo?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) The question is very clear but there is also another problem because some of the houses have been renovated but there are now smaller than the original size. It would be better if the tenants know if they are able to do that, or what they are supposed to be doing. That is all I can answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Mike, do you have any supplementary comments?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was trying to ask, if you think it is unfair that you pay the same rent for a house that is not fixed up than you do for a house that is fixed up and your point is very good that you pay the same rent for a smaller house than you do for a bigger house. Do you think you should pay less rent for a smaller house, and do you think you should pay less rent for a house that has not been repaired?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Would you like to make comments on the question? Jamesie?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the housing association had more authority then the rent would probably be all the same. The housing association knows the people in the community a lot better than the Housing Corporation. The rent scale is set up from far away which is inconvenient and it seems as though the housing association is blamed for that rent scale system. It would be a lot better if the local housing association had more control over the rent scale system. This has created a lot of problems.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there further comments? I believe they all pretty well understand that now. We will go on to a different topic. I would like to introduce the person who just sat down, who is a councillor for the hamlet and also the chairman for the alcohol committee, and he works for the nursing station. He can help very well if a person is sick. I think there is another topic that they would like to bring up.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that people are clear. We want to know why the rent has not been deducted for income tax when we are assessed. Is that clear?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. All your concerns have been recorded. Is the special committee clear on what was being talked about?

SOME HON. MEMBER: Yes.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) We will go on to the next item, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern is the two-storey buildings, if they had bigger sewage tanks it would be a lot better. The toilet gets filled even before the water tank is full and when the toilet fills up it flows on the floor and stinks up the whole building. Even if you try and keep it clean, and it is very awkward to try and clean the bathroom all the time because it is very small. So if the sewage tank was outside of the house it would be better, or put it deep underneath the building, and there should be an indicator to find out if the sewage tank is full. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I think you are discussing those two slanted duplexes, are you referring to those buildings?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Yes, those two buildings.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) As I understand it, the water tank is bigger than the sewage tank and that creates a problem, is that correct?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, we feel that the sewage tank is smaller than the water tank itself, so for that reason they probably overflow their sewage tank.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any comments from the special committee on these concerns? Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has this been reported to the Housing Corporation to check on the back up of the toilets and the smelling up of the place? Did anyone check from the district office in Frobisher Bay?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Is there a response to that comment?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a brief answer to the question you were asking. Last year or a year and a half ago they checked these duplex houses and they came to fix them up so that they would not overflow to the floor. But after they tried to fix it nothing changed up to today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Is that clear? Are there any more comments regarding the tank problem?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Thank you. The Housing Corporation knows all about this problem that it overflows onto the floor because we have repeatedly told them. They know the problem right now. We have this problem because they are not properly fixed. I live in one of those houses and it gets really bad so I try very hard to go after the Housing Corporation to have it fixed. I think the toilets are too small. We have told them to get a bigger toilet.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Andrew?

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: I would like to make a supplementary to this problem, Mr. Chairman. Most of my concerns I will be writing a brief to the committee about, but they relate mainly to the hamlet problems in regards to the administration of services. A lot of the problems get reported to us even though they are not within our jurisdiction. A number of houses have this same problem with holding tanks being too small but fortunately they overflow outside the house, not inside. None of the newer houses, I am told, are designed with inadequate tanks but it does seem that over a period of two or more years, they accumulate either sludge or problems internally which reduces the capacity within the tank and then problems occur. There appears to be no kind of preventative maintenance program to flush or clean the holding tanks, and it is particularly bad when it happens to overflow inside a building, but there are a great many others that will overflow outside the buildings even though they have not run out of water. The houses are designed so you would normally run out of water long before your tank overflows. It definitely increases the costs of the municipality because we have to do extra services to pump out houses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any more comments on that topic? Lucassie?

LUCASSIE: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not think I made myself too clear the first time. I do not want the water tanks to be smaller from the size they are now, but the sewage tanks are too small because they overflow into the house. While we are on the subject of tanks, we have cleaned up the tanks and we have seen the inside. They get really dirty and there are all kinds of materials inside such as welding equipment and also insulation is even inside the water tanks, and it does not seem suitable.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. When you speak we are using interpreters so please try and talk slowly if possible. Are there any further comments on this matter? We are talking about both the water tanks and sewage tanks. Please note that your comments are being recorded. Do you want to go to a different subject now?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Mr. Chairman, I am going to talk about the water tanks that do not have openings to clean the tanks. The tanks on the older buildings do not have an opening so the tank can be cleaned and it would be a lot better if there were openings. The very recent ones that are coming up should have a cleaning hole.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any more comments regarding tanks? I do not think there are any further comments but we know what you are talking about. Please proceed.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you. I want to talk about heating system which are located inside the houses. The mechanical parts of the furnace are too available to the children and that creates problems. The control system is too much in the open. Also, the people feel that it would be better to have a small storage place outside the buildings for the furnaces, so it will not be so available to the children. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. I would like to ask a question about the furnaces. One of the rooms has the furnace and the other one does not have storage space, so are you asking whether it is inconvenient for the people living in the house or whether you would want to see another area? Can we get further clarification on that please? Jamesie?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) Thank you. The reason why we brought this up because when they renovate rehabs, the house stinks of smoke when it is windy. We feel that if they are going to rehab, they should put the furnace outside the living area. Sometimes even the fuel starts to smell when there is a leak or something. It is not convenient for the householders and that is the reason we want a separate place for the furnace in the rehabs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. We are still referring to furnaces. Are there any further comments or questions concerning this matter? I think we are all clear as to what you were saying. Do you want to go on to a different topic?

MR. OLAMIE TIMIL: (Translation) If I am not clear, I would like to get assistance from my fellow colleagues. The furnaces in the new buildings, if children were playing around and accidentally hit the fuel pipe or any other control, it might break the furnace and that is why we brought this up. The other topic is about rehabs. The interior of the building shrinks once it is rehabbed and we feel that they should put the furnace outside the building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I am going to talk about dripping houses. The recent ones that are being built are dripping every spring because during wintertime there is condensation inside the roof and in spring it starts to drip. It seems that the people do not think it is fair for them to be paying larger rents, especially when there is dripping water all the time. Some household items have been damaged. We feel that they should have better insulation or there should be heat going up to the roof so that the condensation will not build up. The older buildings have roofs that are just painted and the people feel there should be roof tiles put on top. The buildings that were built in 1976 also have a lot of dripping inside the bedrooms because the ceiling is just paper and they never replaced the broken ceilings. The roof gets stained and it is not very pleasant to look at.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We know exactly what you are talking about but I just want a bit of a clarification as to where exactly the dripping is coming from. Is it from the outside or is it from in between the roofs?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) The exterior. The snow builds up in the attic of that house and when the weather starts getting warm, it melts into the interior roof.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? No questions? We know exactly what you are talking about and we will keep that with us. Perhaps we can go on to the next item.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I am just supporting what was said because these new houses do a lot of dripping.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. We understand exactly. Are you talking about the older houses that have not been renovated?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. John?

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to know which houses they were talking about

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) We are talking about the houses that have not been rehabbed that are old public houses. Some of them have three, four and five bedrooms.

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: Is there a problem with dripping in any of those buildings that have been rehabilitated or rehabbed in the last few years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Can anybody answer that?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) We have a rehabbed house. The only problem that I have seen so far is the furnace having a gasoline smell because there is not enough space for the furnace. But they are not dripping anymore. When it rained, the edges of the door were bringing water in from the outside.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Any further questions? If the chairman of the housing association wants to move on to another item we are ready.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you. We will go on to a different topic at this time concerning the foundation of the buildings. If they built the foundations closer together we feel that the floors would not break up. When the house starts to shift the tiles start to break up on the top. If the material was not so brittle it would last a longer time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there other questions or comments on the foundations of buildings? If there are no further comments, Jamesie Kootoo would like to make a presentation on the foundation of a house.

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) After the foundation of the house is built it is not inspected again. It would be better if they inspect these foundations. Even though they start to shift they are not being repaired.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) What improvements or repairs were you talking about? Do you think that more jacks should be available or whether there should be more funding? What is the problem?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Thank you. The foundation of a house sometimes shifts and I feel some funding should be available to inspect these foundations after the houses have been built. If they were regularly inspected it would be a lot more convenient for the maintenance people.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I was trying to ask what you were really questioning. I know the housing association has jacks, or are you requesting for more funds to repair these buildings. I just want to find out which one are you requesting, the tools or the funding to maintain these buildings?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) The money is not available to make repairs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Okay, I understand now.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I would like to make a supplementary comment on foundations? The climate here changes during winter and summer and the house has gaps because of the climate. If the foundations were closer together the shifting of the house would reduce. If the foundations are far apart they start to warp.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. I fully understand now. I want to ask a question because there might be different types of foundations here, or they might be all the same. Which type of foundation would you prefer, the steel type, or concrete or wood? What kind of foundation would you request for the community of Lake Harbour?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I cannot answer because I do not know which one would be the best one for this unique type of climate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Andrew?

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: Again, this is a problem that became a concern of the hamlet council and has been discussed at some length with the municipal engineers and the town planning and lands from Frobisher. We have a proposal for a land assembly and the preferred method in this situation is definitely steel piles. Virtually none of this has been done here, but we are advised that this is by far the best method for this kind of land where there is a solid rock base. It has, in fact, been specified for the new nursing station which should be built this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for your very clear answer. Are there further comments on foundations? If not we will go on to a different topic.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I want to talk about the two-storey building. The lower part, if there was to be a fire at the bottom, the whole building would just burn up because the upper storey would be included. Some people are really worried about having a two-storey building. They think it would be better if it was on one floor not two storeys. People feel that the buildings should not be painted the same colour all the time because they like to see different colours. Also, the pipes for the water tank and for the sewage tank and for the fuel sometimes are too close together and it makes it awkward for the men who are delivering the water. Also the pipes for the sewer are too narrow. Sometimes they get blocked by ice or snow and the smell goes into the house instead of going out. Perhaps if they had a bigger porthole they would not freeze as fast. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Regarding the two-storey houses, when we had the meeting in Cape Dorset some people were asking for apartments or highrises. It was good to hear the people asking for them for the younger people, but now we are in another settlement that does not want any two-storey buildings. I am here from Lake Harbour myself so I would not support people who do not want two-storey buildings because we do not have enough land to build one-storey houses. I am not answering you, this is just my personal view. Regarding item number seven, that there are no openings to clean water tanks, we discussed this earlier. Do you mind if we skip that because we already talked about that topic. Is that okay? What time are we having the public meeting? Four o'clock? Thank you. It is 4:00 o'clock now. May be we can go on with this agenda even if the public are here or would you like to go through the whole thing? It is up to you, as long as the people do not get tired of waiting. Olamie?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Thank you. If we have told the public to come at 4:00 o'clock -- as long as I will be allowed to say the things that are written down, it is okay with me. We could probably take a little break and we can bring it up again at the public meeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Yes, I agree with you. Anybody will be able to speak, is that okay? The public is probably waiting around already, so shall we do that? We will take a five or 10 minute break and you can go out and take a look at the ultralight that is flying around outside right now.

---ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

LAKE HARBOUR, JUNE 14, 1984

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I would like to thank you for attending this meeting. Can you hear me? Can the people in the back hear us? We have a tradition that if we have a public meeting we usually start with a prayer. I am going to make an opening prayer and it is up to you whether you want to sit or stand up.

---Prayer

I would like to first of all thank you for attending this public meeting even though it is very nice weather outside, and I am glad about it. Some committee Members are not present right now, but I was asked to act as the chairman during this meeting here. You will be given an opportunity to speak on any of your views or concerns. I will make a brief statement on exactly what we are doing but first of all I would like to introduce the committee Members. I will start from the far left, John T'Seleie from the Sahtu riding down in Dene country. The next one is Michael Angottitauruq from Kitikmeot East. Also, myself, you know who I am, I am from Baffin South. On my right is Eliza Lawrence from Tu Nedhe. The largest Member is Mike Ballantyne from Yellowknife North and these are the committee Members.

The reason for us coming here is to listen to your concerns about housing. You probably have heard that we have been doing this throughout the communities. I would also like to indicate to you that we are not from the Housing Corporation but we are elected Members of the Legislative Assembly. Also, we are not from the government, but we are in between.

First of all, what we will be doing in this public hearing is you will have the opportunity to speak on any concerns about housing. If you have questions, we will not be able to answer them directly during this meeting. We are just having this meeting to make a report and after we have visited all the communities we will make recommendations. So I am in a kind of a rush right now because they will have to use the community hall tonight. To give you a chance to speak I will make these opening remarks brief. Any person that wishes to speak will have to step up to that table over there and please state your name and try to talk loud and you should try to keep the microphone very close to your mouth, as though you will eat it. Would any Members of the special committee like to make an opening statement?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank the community for inviting us to hear your views and concerns. I would like to encourage everyone, women and men, to tell us all your concerns so we can make a strong recommendation to the Assembly when we do our interim report in November. We are not working for the association or the government. We are elected Members and any recommendations that we made we will see to it that they are followed up so that we can make changes for the betterment of all the communities. You are very lucky to have an MLA that is interested and active in your own local committees. That will be a big help to all of you when we sit in the Assembly. I would like to thank you for inviting us and please feel free to come up and speak so that we can record everything you are saying. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Before somebody steps up, there has been a mistake in the pamphlets that are printed in both Inuktitut and English. You will probably recognize the name because it should be the other way around. I have never been a nurse so you all probably know that.

---Laughter

Any further comments or opening remarks from the special committee? We are anxious to hear your comments and views so I would like any person to step up to the microphone and make their presentation on housing.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) My name is Olamie Timilaq. I have a presentation of concerns that were given to me by the community of Lake Harbour and it concerns the rehabs. The furnace takes up a lot of space in the rehabs. We feel there should be a small storage space either inside or outside the building in order to make more space. They also made the windows too small and they have asked us not to use too much electricity. But even after the houses are rehabed we still use a lot of electricity because the windows were made smaller. Since the rehabs are so small they should only have two bedrooms in order to make a larger space for the living room. They have three very small bedrooms but they are too small. The interior of the rehab looks a lot better but we would prefer that the rehabs should be done on the outside of the building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? They are probably all clear on what you said, so do you have any further presentations?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) I will have to move on to a different topic. Thank you. I will touch upon the floors of the newer buildings. The floors easily shift or warp and when that happens the nails start to show in the tiles, and we think the nails should be pounded harder during building in order to prevent them coming up. The tiles break easily in the newer buildings because they only have one sheet of plywood on the floor and we feel they should have better plywood on the building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? Do you have further comments?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) I am going to touch upon the inspectors of rehabs and new buildings. When the inspectors visit these buildings they are always in a rush and they do not thoroughly inspect. We feel that there should be an Inuk inspector to inspect these rehabs because he would have better understanding and would know the place a lot better. The tenants sometimes find more work even though the inspector has done his inspection.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Mr. Angottitauruq.

MR. MICHAEL ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask a question about the employees of the housing association. I would like to know whether the housing association employees can actually do the inspections on these buildings?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I do not clearly understand you.

MR. MICHAEL ANGOTTITAUURUQ: (Translation) I will speak in English and the interpreters will translate. (End of translation) I will ask you a question now. Do you think the maintenance men in town are good enough to inspect houses? Since they are living in the settlement and since they are maintenance men, they should have qualifications to know what is wrong or right after the contractor finishes the buildings or rehabs. That is my question.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Thank you. We feel that if they are going to do inspections, they should not rush as they usually do, and then they could clearly understand what parts of the house need repair. In the future we would like to see Inuk inspectors because we feel they would not rush as much. Is it clear now? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are you finished, Mr. Angottitauruq? Eliza would also like to ask a question.

MRS. LAWRENCE: I understand what you are saying, that the inspectors are rushing through too fast and are not taking their time. I also know that you have to be qualified and recognized as able to do these inspections. My question is, is there anyone capable of training to be an inspector from this community? If so, have you requested any training in this area? Thank you.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) We have never investigated this situation. No one has ever applied for the position you are referring to.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. John, would you like to make a comment?

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: Yes, I would like to ask a question, Mr. Chairman. You say that the inspectors rush their job. I would like to know what kind of things they do not inspect, what they do not notice and just exactly what the inspectors are not doing.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) The results that we have seen on the rehabs is that after the inspector was here some parts of the building were not completed and the tenants only found out after the inspector left. So we would want a thorough inspection of the whole house including storage spaces. The toilets and the plumbing are always leaking and sometimes the fuel pipes are leaking and sometimes the sewage tank is leaking. They should run the water when they do inspections and then they could see the house better.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have any more comments Eliza? Is there anybody else who wants to question? Olamie, do you have any more concerns to bring up before anybody else comes up?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) I think the public could support me if they want to. I will finish my presentation afterwards.

MR. JOANIE IKKIDLUAQ: (Translation) You already said my name. I probably will not be as clear as the first speaker. I am going to go back to the inspectors. After a qualified inspector inspected a building and after the new tenants moved into that new house they saw a lot of things wrong that had not been finished, so perhaps they could have someone from the board of directors to inspect the houses, so the inspector would not be alone. Even though they are not qualified they could help to find the mistakes or the things that are not finished. I know that these inspectors are qualified but they should have an Inuit because they know the North and the conditions.

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CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee on that topic? No? I am going to let the people speak, first come first serve.

MR. NOOJALIAQ QIMIPIK: (Translation) My name is Noojaliaq Qimipik. I have been part of the construction crew. I have told these construction people to do it better but they never believed me. You are a special committee on housing, so I wonder if you could bring this up to the Housing Corporation committees so that the contractors will build a better quality house? Sometimes they do not do things properly. Perhaps maybe they rush the construction because they want to go back to their families. Also, they do not put proper foundations because the sand shifts around if the foundation touches the ground. Perhaps it would be better if the houses could have cement paddings. I know there are houses with cement paddings, although here we do not have that many. The other communities are probably experiencing that problem. Some doors in the bedroom, if the house shifts you cannot close the doors anymore. The tiles look good when the house is built but when the house shifts they go apart. The quality of that house is not too good. If the foundation was closer these problems would be decreased because the foundations are too wide apart on some of the floors.

These are some of the things I have noticed when I was part of the construction crew. Because the contractors are qualified it is hard to tell them what to do or how to improve things. They will not listen. Also, the houses are so dry that if you keep the traditional Inuit clothing in the house, they get damaged. Perhaps in the future they should build a cool storage room. I am sure there are a lot of people who want to speak up so I will end it here. Thank you. I will go if nobody has any questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Is there anybody from the special committee who would like to ask questions? There are no questions. We cannot always answer the questions that are directed to us, but whatever you say is being recorded and collected, so I just want you to know that. Nothing will be wasted, Jamesie?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) Thank you. My name is Jamesie. I am going to go back to the inspections. They have to be appointed and they have to have a certificate to be an inspector. I have seen these inspectors, say for electrical wiring or for furnaces, and a lot of times they have missed something that is not in proper place. They should be accompanied by an Inuk on their inspections. When they first started to inspect in the past they used to have a licence but now they do not even show us any kind of paper saying that they are actual inspectors.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee? I think somebody else wanted to speak up. There is a question from the floor, Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you that there should be Inuit inspectors because I think they understand the problems better than someone from the south. I think there should be more training available to the people in the communities. But the question I would like to ask you is when the inspectors inspect a house, do members of the housing association go with them when they do the inspection?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) They never have anybody following them when they inspect the houses, but they have somebody from the hamlet council and right away they leave. Sometimes as the board of directors we go with them, but we cannot communicate with them at all. They let us know when they are going to come in so when they come in we follow them around. Before we have a chance to talk they just leave.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any further comments from the special committee? Would the person who wants to come up here please step up?

MR. MALEKTOO LAITA: (Translation) Thank you. My name is Malektoo Laita. I also have a concern that the Housing Corporation raise the rent even though they do not come to the communities to check the buildings. I totally disagree with this situation. They just write us a letter and ask their employees to increase the rent. I think they should come around to the communities to check up on the houses before they increase the rent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from members of the special committee? Who would also like to come up to the table to talk about housing matters? Please note that we will have to close the meeting if there are no further speakers.

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LUCASSIE: (Translation) Thank you. You have already mentioned my name. When we first had that meeting, we had to end it because it was after 4:00 o'clock. I want to talk about these two-story buildings. They have cooking facilities and a living room upstairs. If they are going to build these type of buildings I think they should have the living room and kitchen downstairs and the bedrooms upstairs. That is all I wanted to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any questions from the special committee. There are no questions so we all understood what he meant.

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) I did not get a chance to touch upon the main facts of rents. They take 25 per cent from your gross pay before the income tax is deducted and that is our main problem and concern. The rent that we pay does not help us when we file our income tax. I would prefer that the net pay that we put in our pocket be calculated for the fact that we cannot deduct them from the income tax forms. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Do any of you have any questions? John?

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get it clear. Is he telling us that rent is deducted from the gross pay and not from the net pay?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) Yes. Before they take the deductions off our cheques they calculate the rent. They calculate it from the gross pay instead of the money that we put in our pockets. Did I answer your question?

MR. JOHN T'SELEIE: And gross pay would include wages and family allowance payments or old age payments, that kind of thing?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) I was referring to a person who is employed. I do not really know the situation so I cannot completely answer your question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any further questions?

MR. BALLANTYNE: I would like to ask a question. There seems to be a major problem with rents in every community that we have visited and I want to just ask a question as an idea of how to improve the situation. Do you think it would be good if the Housing Corporation gave the housing association enough money for their budget and then all rent that is collected could be kept by the housing association to do other work that they want to do in the community?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) Do you want me to answer? Yes, it would be good but you have to have a lot of experience if that is going to be the case. I would prefer that the housing association have more control over the rent within the community, but it cannot happen right now because the people who live very far away are the people who run the rent operations. That is the main problem that we have around here. We cannot control the rent scale.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any more comments from the special committee? I think Olamie wanted to speak again.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to continue the concerns of the people that were given to us. I am going to talk about the porches. The porches on the newer houses that are being built are too small and the second door is very small. If you have children these porches are way too small. The living room area of these rehab houses is also too small. Because there is no heat in the porch, it just fills up with snow. People feel the porches should be bigger and warmer. I am talking about the rehab houses. I do not think anybody could survive in the porch even if they wore warm clothes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee on that? I do not think there are any questions. I want to ask you a question. So you want some kind of a heating system in the porches?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes. People feel that it would be okay if the porches had some kind of heating system.



CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Do you have any further comments you want to make?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, I would like to touch on the corners of the buildings. The exterior corners of the new buildings come off too easily. The wind blows away these corners, so we would like to see more sturdy corners.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Yes, we understand now because there are a lot of this type that are being blown away and Mike Ballantyne said he had lots in Yellowknife, so I will probably be able to bring some back, some large ones.

---Laughter

Any questions concerning corners? Do you want to go on to different comments since there are no questions?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, I would like to touch upon a different topic. This is part of what I mentioned earlier. The pump out plumbing for the sewage tanks is too low and in wintertime the snow covers these pump out holes from the sewage tank and you have to take the snow off before you can pump out the sewage tank. Also the pump out holes are too close to the building, touching the building, and you have to move the sewage truck too close to the building. We feel the pump out holes should not be as close to the building.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. I would like to ask the special committee if they have any questions or did you understand him? Yes, they understand your comments.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) I would like to move to another topic and it is concerning doors again. The recent units are drafty and sometimes even snow comes in through the cracks of the door. Even when they are renovated they improve for a little while and then it goes back to the old situation. I do not know exactly what should be done but we feel they should be building doors that are not too drafty or let in snow.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Is that item completed? I would like to ask the special committee Members if they have any questions on this matter. They do not have questions on that topic. Please proceed to another topic.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) My next topic is concerning fuel tanks. The fuel tanks are too close to the exit. For example if the house was burning, the doors are too close to the fuel tanks. We would prefer that the tanks are moved far from the doorway. Sometimes when the fuel truck delivers, the fuel overflows into the building and we are concerned. The public has asked us to bring this concern up to you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) There are two types of fuel. Are you referring to the fuel tanks?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, the fuel tanks are too close to the doors. That is correct.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Do any Members of the special committee have any questions? There are no questions, so would you like to proceed again?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, I will be touching upon the future buildings that will be built. We feel that the insulation in future should be thicker than the one they are using now because we have to conserve fuel and if the insulation is thicker we will probably conserve a lot more fuel. That is it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I would like to ask you, since they are using thicker insulation at the present time, do you still want it thicker than the one they are using?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Some people maybe do not understand that the present insulation is thicker than the one that they used in the past, so I do not really know, but I think the people were still referring to the ones that were used in the past.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Yes, I understand what you said. Are there any questions from the special committee? There are no questions. Do you have a further presentation to make?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) I have completed the ones that were brought up by the public and I will voice my own concerns to you. I will ask you a question. Is this the only trip that the special committee will make into the communities or are you going to have follow up community hearings in the future?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) I am glad that you asked that question. We will not be having other hearings in the near future because it costs a lot of money to have these type of hearings. I do not know if I will live a long time but I do not know if they will have other hearings while I am still living. These types of hearings are not too frequent, so personally I do not think there will be any hearings in the near future.

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, I understand, so I am going to make my own brief presentation. Something has worried me since I was on the board of directors for the housing association. I am concerned for the children that are growing up. Even if we had houses that came on ships I do not know where we would put them. I want you to consider the younger people seriously. This is what I wanted to bring up.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for making your comments, and what you said was very clear. Do you have any more comments?

MR. OLAMIE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) Yes, I wanted to say something about rent. Even some of us who are employed sometimes have a hard time trying to keep up with the rent. We do not want to start owing too much on rent. I feel that the maximum rent should be lowered. The rent scale should not increase so frequently. Some of us would like to move into cheaper places. Since you are not having a hearing in the near future I would like to give this presentation to you. I am not the only one who is willing to speak so I am going to give an opportunity for other people to come to the table.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make a comment. I am very pleased and impressed with your comments. As for coming back to this community, I doubt very much if the whole Special Committee on Housing will be back here, but any recommendations that we make will be sent to the community as well, and any follow up or any improvement that has been made, you will probably be notified through your MLA because that will be dealt with at the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In every community that we visited the housing associations have said they do not have the money or the power to properly do their job and every association has asked us that we recommend that they be given more power. I wonder if you could tell us what powers you would like to have that you do not have right now?

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) Are you asking us which kind of power we would like to have for the housing association? I have not consulted with the other board of directors so I feel that I should not answer that directly. Perhaps after a meeting with our board of directors when we have a clear understanding of which kind of powers we want, perhaps we can get back to you on that. Would that be okay?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, that would be okay. That would be very helpful to us if you had a meeting of the housing association and wrote us a letter stating which powers you would like to have. It would help us very much in making our recommendations. Thank you.

A SPEAKER (male): (Translation) I understand. Thank you. I think I am finished. Perhaps there are other people who want to bring up their concerns.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Elyiah Pudluk?

MR. ELYIAH PUDLOO: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard about the two-storey houses, that some people from Lake Harbour did not want to see any two-storey buildings. I like the idea of having two-storey houses because I am living in one right now. The reason why I like it is because in our community if you look at the landscape there are a lot of hills and rock and we have a hard time getting space for new houses. When people were on the local station getting their

concerns together, this was the first time I heard that some people did not like two-storey houses in Lake Harbour. These two-storey houses for today are more appropriate. Regarding fuel and electricity, the houses that we are living in right now are not using as much fuel because I checked the other houses when it was cold out and the rehab ones and the older houses, you have to fill up the tanks twice before you fill up the two-storey building. I would like to stress once again that I would prefer to have these two-storey buildings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the special committee? There are no questions because they all understood.

MR. NOOJALIAQ QIMIPIK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to stress again about the powers of the housing association. The housing association should definitely have more power over rents. Depending upon your salary you have to pay more. We have been told by the housing association that if we lose some of our salary we will have to tell the housing association immediately. We were informed that if we lose some of our salary they would decrease the rent that we are paying. So I would prefer that the housing association have more control over rent. Up to now they have not had control over the rent scale. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We all understand your comment and it is very interesting. Are there any questions from the special committee? Mike.

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if I can explain this question properly. We are looking at different ways to give the association more power. What I am going to ask you is only an idea and I do not know if it will work. Would it be better at the beginning of the year, the housing association estimates how much rent they can collect over the year and they will say to the Housing Corporation, we will give you a certain amount of dollars, and it will be up to the housing association to decide the rent scale, to decide how much each person will pay in order to raise that certain amount of dollars. I am not sure if that is clear.

MR. NOOJALIAQ QIMIPIK: (Translation) In some part of the year some of us have seasonal earnings and some of us who carve, that is the only way we earn. We know that they could decrease our rent if we go and tell the housing association that they have decreased our salary. But what you are referring to about the one year's estimation, I think that is too long. I cannot really answer the question you were asking, but if you have further questions or any comments, I would be more than willing to hear them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is difficult subject. The Housing Corporation say that they have to get a certain amount of rent in order to get money from the federal government. What I am trying to ask, is there a way that they can get that amount of rent that they need but that the housing association could decide how much each person pays. Is that clear?

MR. NOOJALIAQ QIMIPIK: (Translation) Yes, thank you, and this is part of the reason I would want to see more power within the housing association.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further questions from the special committee? Thank you. Also Jeanie Pudluk would like to make some comments. Please state your name.

JEANIE PUDLUK: (Translation) My name is Jeanie Pudluk. I think we could conserve more energy if the windows are not too small because it would be brighter, so we would not use more electricity. Also, regarding the rent, I think the rents are too high. Although I do not pay that much rent the food is very expensive and if the rent is too high we cannot the food that is really good for the body. In the South the food prices are a lot lower than in the North. If our rent was too high I do not think we could keep up, and this is what I wanted to bring up while you are available for comment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee about the comments that were just made? Do you have any further comments that you would like to bring up?

MS AKEEGOK EKELLUAQ: (Translation) My name is Akeegok Ekelluaq. I am the secretary for the housing association. There are two senior directors of the housing association. If a person asks for certain things from the Housing Corporation INPHC get the material immediately. They give the tenants what they request, and I wonder why the Housing Corporation does not give their tenants what we request faster? I wonder how the Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation can get their money faster or their requests faster than the Housing Corporation and that is where I get confused.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) We understand but we probably cannot give you an answer here but we will check up on this concern to the Housing Corporation, because of lot of these questions are going to be answered by the Housing Corporation.

MS AKEEGOK EKELLUAQ: On the topic of rents, I am staying in a rehab building unit. There is no storage space inside the building and there is not even any closets in the bedrooms. Some of our household items had to be kept out on the cold porch and some of the clothing has become moldy because of lack of storage space. That is the main concern that I would like to stress to you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any questions to the previous speaker, Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to ask a question to the previous speaker if I could. Today we had a short tour of your community with Joe and we saw the two duplex units. One is owned by the Housing Corporation and one is owned by the Inuit Non-Profit organization. I think it is a good comparison of two different ways. I wonder if you could tell me which of the two units do you think is better run and what are the advantages for a tenant in the INPHC unit?

MS AKEEGOK EKELLUAQ: (Translation) We tried to send questionnaires each month but we cannot proceed with this any more. The questionnaire included how the buildings could improve and other things. They were requesting about fans for one of the buildings and INPHC got their fan a lot faster and at the present time the Housing Corporation is not even providing the other building with a fan even though they are paying the same amount and even though both the tenants are looking after their houses very well. Did I answer your question?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Would you like to make a supplementary?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. That answers my question. Do you think that the tenants in the INPHC are consulted more than the tenants in the Housing Corporation unit?

MS AKEEGOK EKELLUAQ: (Translation) Yes. When some tenants replied to the questionnaire I sent them down to the INPHC office. There are faster results whenever a request comes from the INPHC than the building that is owned by the Housing Corporation.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Mike?

MR. BALLANTYNE: In the future would you like to see more houses built by the INPHC rather than the Housing Corporation?

MS AKEEGOK EKELLUAQ: (Translation) Even if it was not INPHC, if it was somebody else who was more concerned about the houses it would be okay.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any further questions? I do not think so. Joanie?

MR. JOANIE IKKIDLUAQ: (Translation) Thank you. The thing I wanted to bring up was brought up as to what kind of powers the housing association would like to see. We will write you a letter after the meeting with regard to the kind of powers we would like but personally I want to bring that up, I feel that because we know the people of the community we should have control over the rent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any further questions? I just want to state that we have limited time, although I do not want to stop the people from speaking. I think we were asked to finish the meeting at 6:00 o'clock. Andrew? I do not want to rush the meeting but I was worried about the time, but we do not have to worry. Saimanik Sagiaktok was next.

MR. SAIMANIK SAGIAKTOK: (Translation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make an addition to what someone said regarding the two-storey houses. We were told that they do not use as much fuel. They still have a bit of a problem. If the house should burn there are no exit emergency doors upstairs. If they are going to build these type of two-storey houses they should have a ladder coming down which can be used in case of a fire. I would prefer to see two-storey buildings here in Lake Harbour as long as they have ladders in case of emergencies.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Thank you. Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you. I just have one question for the record. Are you saying that at the present time there are no exit doors or stairs on the top floor?

MR. SAIMANIK SAGIAKTOK: (Translation) The second storey does not have an emergency ladder or steps.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have any further comments? Any more questions? Thank you. Judea Goteleak wanted to say some concerns.

MR. JUDEA GOTELEAK: (Translation) Thank you for allowing me to speak. I have mentioned this to the Housing Corporation. I like the two-storey houses but the bedrooms should not be on the same floor as the living room. They should have a living room area on the first floor.

I think that would be a lot better if they had the living room downstairs, and the bedrooms should be located on the second floor. I did not want to move into a two-storey house because you have to climb up and down the stairs. If you are not in good health, too many steps are not good. The two-storey houses are very good in winter. I lived in one house for one year and they were a lot better than the houses that we have now except there are too many steps. For that reason I had to move out. I know that you will not be able to answer me right away, but I told the housing association before but they could not give me any answers. I am employed here in Lake Harbour. I work 12 full days in a month. I cannot keep up with my expenses because my rent is set the same as for a person who is working full-time for a full month. I do not agree with this so I would like an answer to the question I have just presented.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you for your presentation. I cannot answer the concern that you just brought up. It is not the only concern we have heard. Are there any questions from the Members of the special committee? No questions? Do you have further comments?

MR. JUDEA GOTELEAK: (Translation) No, but I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Your comments are being recorded. Jamesie, would you like to speak further?

MR. JAMESIE KOOTOO: (Translation) Thank you. As indicated earlier about housing authority and control, I am very glad I can bring up this subject. I would urge you to bring up this subject on your reports. The housing association themselves tried to calculate the rent for the tenants here in the community but the request was never answered by the Housing Corporation. That is all I wanted to bring up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Any questions from the special committee? Andrew? Do you want to go up and speak? Please proceed.

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in the earlier session, most of my concerns relate to the administration and how it affects the hamlet and hamlet council. I would like to make a couple of comments just before I start. As the committee is probably well aware, the council is very concerned with land use planning and the design of houses. Bearing in mind the comments made about the duplex, the two-storey houses, these kinds of concerns have been considered by the council and those two presently existing units are definitely considered to be experimental and are designed to give us a lot of information and messages as to how we proceed in the future. That may help clarify the amount of discussion about those houses so far.

I have two specific documents which I will be giving copies to the committee and they relate to inspection procedures and general correspondence and liaison between the Housing Corporation and people such as the hamlet council and contractors. In the example of late and inadequate information, I have a copy of a letter from the Housing Corporation to the hamlet council very poorly addressed to the chairman, board of directors, hamlet of Lake Harbour. There is no such person and there is no board of directors in a hamlet council, which one would expect them to know. It is dated May 29th and it advises us who the contractor is who has been awarded the contract to build the new houses for this year. The point I would like to make is, I received this information on June 6 and I had already found this out from my own sources prior to April 30th. It is the kind of information that the councils have to have in order to do proper site preparation and work on behalf of the Housing Corporation, and yet the very people who are supposed to give us this information are the last to give it to us. I do not know if there are any questions at this point.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: I have a question for you. Was there a tender put out for this or was the community made aware that such a contract was going to be given out?

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: Yes, the tender was a public tender and it was advertised to close on March 31st.

MRS. LAWRENCE: My other question is were you aware or do you know of anyone who had bid on the contract from Lake Harbour?

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: Absolutely. That is how I found out who the successful bidder was. I found this out from the contractor himself long before the Housing Corporation had given us any information on this project whatsoever.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you very much.

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: At this point we still have no drawings or detailed information from the Housing Corporation as to what work they need us, the hamlet council, to do. It could well explain why some of their houses are on very poor foundations because the work is not planned soon enough. The second item relates to the way that inspections are carried out. This is a copy of a contract that was given by the Housing Corporation through the agency of the housing association to the hamlet council for some repair work to one of their house pads. It was issued on May 12 last year which is close to the end of the working and construction season rather than the beginning. We accepted the contract on the basis that we would do what we could under the circumstances of the late time of year. And attached to it is a letter dated November 24 which states, and I will read it if I may: It is addressed to myself as secretary manager and it reads as follows:

"Reference unit 1A, site pad foundation project. On November 16, 1983 an NWTHC representative inspected the work on this unit as per the contract. Although the filling of depressions was difficult to determine due to snow coverage, it was reported that work has not begun to the pad. (Photographs are on file). As the funding on this project was available only until December 31, 1983, and work can no longer be completed due to weather conditions, this contract is therefore cancelled. For further information contact myself or Bobby Burns at the district office. Sincerely, Paulette MacLean, Program Officer."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Eliza?

MRS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am confused, sorry about that. You said the contract was given to put a padding and the letter came to you September 16th?

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: No. The contract was issued and signed on September 12th.

MRS. LAWRENCE: And it was cancelled September 30th?

MRS. ANDREW JOHNSON: No, it was cancelled by letter on November 24th because there was no evidence of any work. There was just an arbitrary, one-sided cancellation because they considered no work had been done. The point is that they were unable to inspect any of the work because the area in question was completely covered in snow. In fact most of the work had been done but their inspector could not see what had been done because of snow.

MRS. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I just have one comment to make. In our visits to the communities we had lot of complaints about putting pads in the wintertime because in the spring it melts and shifts the buildings. This sort of information will be very useful for us to make a recommendation. Those are facts and that is what we need. Thank you for letting us have a copy of it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Do you have any more comments to make, Andrew?

MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: Not really, I just hope this has clarified the problem with planning and inspection procedures that the Housing Corporation tends to use.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Pudloo wants to make a presentation.

MR. PUDLOO MANGESIAK: (Translation) I disagree with the rent increases so I will just touch upon that topic. For us, the tenants, who are paying for the rent, after three months our rents are raised \$35 more. I think the rent should be raised only once a year not, not every three months. This is the problem that I see. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Are there any questions from the special committee? We have heard this in different communities so it will support us in what we are going to recommend. Do you have any further comments? I wonder if there is anybody else who would like to make some comments? Itee?

MRS. ITEE TIMILAAQ: (Translation) My name is Itee Timilaaq. I also want to bring up the subject of rent. I have always disagreed with the rent I pay. My husband carves and when the carving prices are so low, I am the only one paying rent and I have to buy clothes for my children, and I have to feed them. I have to buy food almost every day and the food is very expensive. This is the thing I wanted to bring up because it bothers me. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any comments or questions from the special committee? Do you have any further comments? Thank you for bringing up that subject.

MRS. LEAH AKAVAK: (Translation) My name is Leah Akavak. It is very hard for the people who are unemployed because if one person is working in a house the rent gets quite expensive, so I am just speaking to support the people who think the rent is too high. After you guys are gone I do not want to say to myself that I had a chance to speak up and did not. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Are there any questions from the committee? Thank you for giving us your concerns because it is being recorded.

MRS. LEAH AKAVAK: (Translation) I forgot one of the subjects that I wanted to bring up. It is about the calculation of the yearly salary on the rent because both my spouse and I are both working and it is very difficult to pay for rent if you have no savings in your account. I do not like the idea of very frequent increases in the rent. That is what I forgot to tell you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): (Translation) Thank you. Do you have any further comments?

MR. MALEKTOO LAITA: (Translation) I almost forgot when I first made my presentation. I disagree about the sewage pump out and also the hole that you put the water in because they are too close to each other. So if they are going to rehab, I would prefer that the two pipes are moved farther apart.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Arlooktoo): Thank you, that was very clear. Are there further comments, or do we have to stop this meeting? I do not think there are many more concerns to be brought up at this time and this is the last community for us to visit in the Baffin Island. We are quite tired. Since there are not too many people moving up to the microphone, I do not want the MLAs to sit too long, so before I make my closing remarks I would like to ask the special committee if they have any comments to make. Michael?

MR. BALLANTYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on behalf of the committee I would like to thank you for inviting us to your community. We learned many things here today. The things that you have said will help us to make our recommendations. I would also like to thank your MLA and

