



**Nunavut Canada**

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Official Report

**DAY 58**

**Friday, October 18, 2019**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Baker Lake)

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(Quttiktuq)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
(Tununiq)

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(Kugluktuk)

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(Netsilik)

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**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister of  
Human Resources*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
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(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for  
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Energy Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Aboriginal  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. George Hickey**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)  
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial  
Management Board; Minister of Health;  
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister  
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

**John Main**  
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Patterk Netser**  
(Aivilik)  
*Minister responsible for Nunavut  
Arctic College; Minister responsible  
for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)  
*Government House Leader; Minister  
of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
responsible for Immigration; Minister  
responsible for the Status of Women*

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, October 18, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>House commenced at 9:01

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Can you say the opening prayer, please, Member Qirngnuq.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Member Qirngnuq. I wish to inform my colleagues that three members will be absent from the House this morning: Member Kamingoak for Kugluktuk, Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa, and Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak. I note that those members will be absent from the House this morning.

Let's proceed with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 274 – 5(2): 2019  
Nipivut Youth Conference**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet hosted the annual Nipivut Youth Conference on October 2 and 3. Youth delegates from Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, and Igloolik attended the conference, which focused on finding motivation, building confidence, and being positive role models for others.

Mr. Speaker, to support them to become strong leaders in their school and community, these students learned skills such as strategies to address bullying, developing healthy peer relationships, and promoting positive change awareness campaigns in their schools and community. They learned to express and share these skills through art, video and social media.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the annual youth conference was launched in 2016 by the Department of Education in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross to help Nunavut youth achieve a better sense of well-being and self-reliance. Previous youth conferences were held in Iqaluit in 2016, Cambridge Bay in 2017, and Rankin Inlet in 2018.

Hearing that Nipivut was the title of this year's conference makes me confident that Inuit identity and our voice was celebrated. As more youth gather for the annual event, I believe many will find their voice, share their gifts, and set the foundation for a bright future for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 275 – 5(2):  
Taloyoak Pilot Project Motor  
Vehicles Issuing**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For many years now, the Members of this Assembly have been bringing concerns forward about the length of time it takes for their constituents to receive critical documents from the Motor Vehicles Division.

It is an understatement to say it is a challenge to provide good service and high levels of security (interpretation ends) while using old technology and poor connectivity to cover the long distances we have in Nunavut.

As the members are aware, over the past several years the government has invested over \$7 million into developing a motor vehicles information system to improve our service delivery. That system "went live" in our motor vehicles offices one year ago. We are pleased with the stability and ease of use it has to offer. However, up until now those benefits have only been evident in communities with motor vehicles offices.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell the members that this past October we connected the first government liaison office directly into the new Motor Vehicles Information System. Through this connection, the GLO office in Taloyoak can enter motor vehicle transactions directly into the Motor

Vehicles Information System. Through the government's secure network, that transaction can now be reviewed and approved at one of our motor vehicles offices in virtual real-time. This means an application entered in Taloyoak can be approved for production in Ottawa in a matter of hours rather than weeks.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this pilot has taken a high level of coordination between Community and Government Services, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and staff of my own department. We will continue to work together to develop the plan to bring these improvements to every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Premier Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 276 – 5(2):  
Upcoming Federal Election**

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good morning" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to speak about the upcoming federal election. As we all know, Canada votes on October 21 and this is an opportunity for Nunavummiut to have their voices heard at the federal level over the next four years.

>> *Applause*

The democratic process is an important and one and one that should not be taken lightly. Voting is not only our right as Canadians but can be viewed as our

responsibility as well.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** As Nunavummiut facing food insecurity, a housing crisis, critically aged and insufficient infrastructure, and our hard realities around suicide and mental health, we owe it to ourselves and to each other to take this opportunity to speak up.

Mr. Speaker, in September I wrote to the federal party leaders to ask how they plan to address the needs of Nunavut should their party form the next government. I have highlighted that our government is focused on investment and engagement on specific priorities to bring us in line with national standards, and here are some of the stuff, including: infrastructure, housing, mental health and addictions treatment, economic development and community success, strengthening the Arctic and nation building, transportation, energy and fibre corridors, education, Inuktitut language skills and training. I also expressed the need to bring our elders home from out-of-territory care.

I have shared those letters with all members and I have published them on my website. I will also publish the responses from the leaders as I receive them. I hope these will provide some additional information for Nunavut voters as they strive to make their decisions.

Mr. Speaker, we expect a lot from Nunavut's Member of Parliament, and we are counting on their voice to be a strong, effective advocate for our pressing needs. Good luck to the Nunavut candidates, and I look forward

to working with the successful candidate for the betterment of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 277 – 5(2):  
Revitalization of the Nunavut  
Teacher Education Program**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide my esteemed colleagues with an update on the revitalization of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program which is offered through Nunavut Arctic College.

As my colleagues may know, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program has recently been refocused and is now built on a foundation of Inuit language and culture, with the goal of graduating bilingual teachers.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** This new program, which is a result of a 10-year partnership agreement recently signed with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, provides learners with an opportunity to earn a language certificate, a language specialist diploma, as well as a Bachelor



of Education. These courses will help to enrich the academic program and offer students additional workplace options.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to announce that Nunavut Arctic College is in discussions with key stakeholders and partners to create a multilateral agreement on the revitalization of Inuktitut in Nunavut through the establishment of a Nunavut partnership table on language and education. This new agreement will help to increase access to Inuktitut language instruction, increase the number of proficient Inuktitut-speaking educators, and increase the number of fluent Inuktitut speakers throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to providing additional updates on the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and these various partnerships in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

**Minister's Statement 278 – 5(2):  
Diabetes Month and Pilot Program**

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Nunavummiut from across the territory experience diabetes at rates comparable to the rest of the country, and the rate of diabetes in Nunavut is continuing to rise. Mr. Speaker and members, the disease is impactful enough by itself, but if poorly managed, diabetes can lead to a host of additional complications, including heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, nerve

damage, blindness, and many others.

However, I'm not here to highlight the rise in this disease but rather some of the exceptional work that is being conducted within the Department of Health to counter it. Currently within the Baffin region, Iqaluit Health Services is hosting a pilot program that has built a coordinated diabetes education team. These health care professionals are in the process of becoming certified diabetes educators and are revolutionizing the way that diabetes is managed within the territory. Under this program the team is pushing three pillars of diabetes management: prevention, education, and empowerment. Diabetes patients, primarily at their behest of physicians but increasingly through self-referrals, have open access to this clinic, and there is also the option of providing telehealth services for patients in communities. In these sessions, patients are treated and educated based on each individual's unique experience with diabetes and are taught lifestyle changes and disease management practices that are tailored to their needs. Mr. Speaker and members, these patients are learning how to take control and manage the disease without compromising other aspects of their life. The clinic is also open to Nunavummiut displaying symptoms of pre-diabetes, which is so vital because if these warning signs are caught and managed early, the disease can be prevented altogether.

Mr. Speaker, patient reviews of the program to date have been universally positive. Many have remarked that for the first time in their lives, they feel in control of their diabetes. Some patients, just through the education and subsequent lifestyle changes imparted

onto them, no longer require medication they had previously relied on for years. Others have gotten their blood sugar levels into the normal range for the first time in recent memory. All these stories have one thing in common: Nunavummiut experiencing diabetes are living healthier, more empowered lives thanks to the treatment and education they have received through this program.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is but one of the chronic diseases that many of our fellow Nunavummiut deal with every single day. However, through treatment approaches such as that which is offered through this pilot program, we can continue to empower Nunavummiut to both live and feel in control of their chronic disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 279 – 5(2): 2019  
Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier  
Scholarship**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to inform my colleagues that the Qulliq Energy Corporation continues to celebrate student success by awarding the annual Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship. Ms. Anchaleena Mandal of Iqaluit received the 2019 scholarship for her dedication to her studies, as well as being a mental health advocate, a devoted community leader, and an accomplished musician.

A graduate of Inuksuk High School, Ms. Mandal is studying at Queen's University in the Doctor of Medicine (MD), after completing the prestigious Accelerated Route to Medical School program. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, after graduation, she plans to return to the territory to provide culturally appropriate medical services. (interpretation ends) At the same time Ms. Mandal continues to develop Inuktitut skills to better connect with future patients in their own language.

The annual scholarship pays tribute to Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier's influence in the establishment of an independent energy corporation for Nunavut before her sudden passing in the year 2000.

Ms. Gauthier was instrumental in creating a made-in-Nunavut electrical utility and this scholarship celebrates her vision for leadership and personal excellence. Ms. Mandal embodies many of the same values. Her passion for learning, along with her willingness to share her knowledge and serve the community, is inspiring.

*Uqaqtii*, the Qulliq Energy Corporation and I are proud to support Nunavummiut who are pursuing higher education levels with the goal of becoming leaders in their communities. We admire their perseverance as students and their willingness to serve our territory. Please join me in congratulating Ms. Mandal on her achievements and wishing her the best of luck on her academic endeavour. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the

Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 280 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Women, Girls  
Leadership and Governance  
Initiative**

**Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik**

(interpretation): Very good morning. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today to update the members on an important initiative my department is undertaking to strengthen women and girls' leadership opportunities across the territory.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, in fiscal year 2019-2020 the Department of Family Services was successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Women and Gender Equality Canada, formally known as Status of Women Canada. The project funding will be used over a three and half year period and will include conducting outreach with key community organizations, coordinating a women and girls' leadership and governance forum, and piloting a program in one region to bring women and girls' leadership and governance training and capacity building closer to community.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, through the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, my department has heard from community that building the capacity of non-profits is key to strengthening community economic development and poverty reduction. Nunavut's Poverty Reduction Strategy, *Makimaniq II*, emphasizes the importance of community groups that can respond to local needs and interests in ways that remote service providers cannot. This project funding aims to not only increase community capacity but

also equip women and girls with the tools, knowledge, and skills to create this change at the individual and community level.

We recognize the importance of involving our partners in this work to ensure its sustainability and success. To that end we look forward to working with key partners across the territory to collaborate in this work.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, [elevating] the voice of women and girls in Nunavut lays a foundation for greater action towards gender equity in Nunavut. This initiative represents a commitment to create more opportunities to support women and girls in leadership and governance positions at a community, regional and territorial level.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I want to thank Women and Gender Equality Canada for their ongoing engagement and commitment to supporting Inuit women and girls in Nunavut.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to commend the Northwest Territories on electing a record number of women in their recent election.

>> *Applause*

It is now the jurisdiction that has the highest proportion of women legislators in Canada. By supporting initiatives that strengthen leadership opportunities for young girls and women, we too can endeavour to make more women elected to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Continuing on Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

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

#### **Member's Statement 422 – 5(2): 2019 High School Graduates of Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow Nunavummiut. First of all, our granddaughter, Philomena Evaglok, is celebrating her sixth birthday. I am very happy.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of Kugaaruk who have completed their grade 12. In the last month these young people have made a lot of accomplishments even though they went through hard times for the past couple of years. These young people showed great courage in coming to school each day to finish their high school. These are the following graduates:

- Marty Anaittuq
- Ethan Angutialuk
- Shelly Angutingunirk
- Cynthia Nartok
- Taniki Ningark
- Shavanna Oogark
- Loranda Rose Qirngnuq
- Natanai Tagornak
- Adam Totalik

(interpretation ends) I congratulate you all. Your hard work and dedication at school has paid off. You have made your

community very proud.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the parents, family members, teachers, and principals for their role in supporting these young men and women through that moment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating these students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

#### **Member's Statement 423 – 5(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Initiatives**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I wasn't going to have my mic on.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to show my support to the minister and I'm sure nobody was expecting this, but we do have to support the government as regular members. The Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation as well as Arctic College made a statement on June 4, 2019 in this House about a project in Rankin Inlet where college students are being taught housing construction. I wanted to say that it is something I like and support.

We all know that there's a severe shortage of housing in each of the Nunavut communities and all communities need to further support their students. We know we need to provide more support on top of what is

provided. Although it's only happening in Rankin Inlet right now, we can envision those projects in every community in Nunavut. You can see the benefits that would come from that.

Last month we had a standing committee meeting with the Office of the Auditor General and we heard about, in English, (interpretation ends) hands-on education, (interpretation ends) in areas such as carpentry, plumbing, sewing, and things like that, that would greatly support students and those who wouldn't have gone to school are more eager to learn when these courses are offered. I support this and I would like to see more of it in Nunavut.

I'm not sure who I will be directing my questions later on, either the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation or Arctic College. I would like to see more of these hands-on types of programs be made available in all Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 424 – 5(2):  
Addressing Housing Shortage**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. As we all know, housing is a critical issue facing almost every Nunavummiuq. There are currently approximately 5,000 people on the wait-list for public housing and half the territory currently lives in overcrowded homes. This housing shortage is intertwined with almost

every social issue that Nunavummiut face, from overcrowding, food insecurity, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and mental health.

I know that the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation is struggling to meet the demand. I appreciate that the minister is doing his best with the limited funds that are available, but I believe that the status quo and current methods are insufficient and will require creative solutions to build as many public housing units as possible in the shortest time possible.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions on this topic at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 425 – 5(2): 2019  
High School Graduates of Rankin  
Inlet**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning. I say "good morning" to the people of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to inform the House that in August of this past summer, Rankin Inlet's graduates were recognized. Graduates are recognized in August after they have passed their (interpretation ends) departmental (interpretation) exams. This summer there were 22 graduates in Rankin Inlet and I thank them for inviting me to attend their graduation ceremony. The graduates are:

- Elliott Adams
- Katrina Anderson

- Amauyak Angootealuk
- Leonie Aupilardjuk
- Derek Fredlund
- Sean Hamilton
- Sandy Kaludjak
- Tamika Kaludjak
- Bryce Kusugak
- Nicholas Makpah
- Lexi Okpatauyak
- Myna Owpaluk
- Jason Panika
- Jaydene Pilakapsi
- Meeka Putulik
- Jasmyne Sanertanut
- Brad Sigurdson
- Jimmy Taipana
- Brandon Tatty
- Clifford Tatty
- Teegan Tucktoo
- Faith Voisey

We congratulate these 22 graduates and we wish them a bright future in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

**Member's Statement 426 – 5(2):  
Municipal Acclamations in Pond  
Inlet**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow residents of Tununiq.

Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2019 there will be municipal elections in Nunavut. There were not enough candidates in our community running for hamlet council, so they will be acclaimed without an election. I would like to congratulate

them for running for the hamlet council. The following hamlet council members were acclaimed:

- Boazie Ootoova
- Cathy Pewatoalook
- Danny Maktar
- Isaac Akpaleepik
- Joshua Idlout
- Moses Koonark
- Titus Arnakallak

In addition, there was only one candidate for the district education authority who will be acclaimed. I would like to congratulate incumbent Michael Peterloosie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 427 – 5(2):  
Summer Visit to Baker Lake**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my best regards to the people of Quttiktuq. Today being Friday, I would like to make a statement on a happy note.

This summer I travelled all over Nunavut and Canada. I would like to state, Mr. Speaker, that I went to your community. We had recently elected you as the Speaker. We don't hold ourselves in high regard, but others do that for us. Our Speaker is very capable and he made that apparent on his own. I was on a bus with him inland. We were looking at the rocks. He was talking about how beautiful Baker Lake is as he looked at me and I was looking at the rocks. He asked, "Did you see the caribou?"

>>Laughter

He's very capable. He was facing this way and he was seeing the caribou in the opposite direction.

>>Laughter

That was incredible. We elected a very capable Speaker and I'm proud of you.

>>Laughter

You always say that your community is beautiful and you know every rock and every lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you very much. We do smile as members once in a while.

Members' Statements. There being none, let us continue on. Returns to Oral Questions. There are none. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 573 – 5(2): Alternative Construction Methods

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I alluded to in my member's statement, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and my questions today are in a similar theme and issues as to those which I raised yesterday with the Minister of Community and

Government Services.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing* identifies "technological innovation" as being one of the key issues facing the corporation.

As the minister is also aware, it is my understanding that an innovative-sounding and locally-led housing project is currently underway in Cambridge Bay to construct a number of "tiny homes," which have the potential to significantly alleviate the housing shortage in that community. I would like to ask: can the minister describe the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation is monitoring the progress of this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this question. We have a severe housing crisis. I think I was up in Cambridge Bay back in April and I met with the hamlet over that thing, and I'm very interested in seeing the outcome of that and monitoring that as the days go by. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. I hope that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will reap as much benefits as possible in learning the pros and cons from this type of development.

Mr. Speaker, the federal election takes place Monday. Although it would be wonderful if the next federal government would write us a very, very, very large cheque to immediately construct the thousands of new public housing units that we desperately need, however, I don't think that anyone in this House thinks that will actually happen.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that each public housing unit costs the Nunavut Housing Corporation several hundreds of thousands of dollars to construct using present methods, which is why I strongly support looking at more cost-effective construction methods that build more homes in less time. I would like to ask if the minister shares my position on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question, hon. member. The housing corporation looks for ways to address our severe housing crisis and issues, and I'm really open to dialoguing with the House on how we can collectively address the housing issue. I'm open to suggestions and comments on how we can address this severe housing crisis that is before us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also look forward to having some open dialogue in this House about some alternatives.

Mr. Speaker, during my questions yesterday of the Minister of Community

and Government Services, I spoke about the idea of trade-offs. For example, the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, which is an Inuit-owned economic development entity, clearly made a number of trade-offs in deciding how to construct its new hotel.

Mr. Speaker, nobody can reasonably deny that the housing crisis across Nunavut is currently at the root of many other social problems. My position is that we need to do what we can to build more units, more quickly, and at less of a cost. If this requires some trade-offs, I am prepared as an MLA to support them.

My question to the minister is this: does the minister consider the current housing crisis in Nunavut to be sufficiently an "exceptional circumstance" to warrant the government exercising its authority under section 3.1 of the NNI Policy to depart from its provisions in order to pursue different approaches to housing construction that may result in more units being built at a more cost-effective and timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation adheres to the NNI Policy, Nunavut Nangminiqaqtiujunut Ikajuuti. We have looked at the modular homes and the NHC has found that stick-built housing is more efficient and less costly than to have these modular homes built. This is how we're going to address housing issues, through the traditional aspects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Question 574 – 5(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River who are watching and listening to our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, I have continually asked questions on caribou. The total allowable harvest for caribou in the Baffin region is 250. Mr. Speaker, it was very good to hear that we are now able to harvest 25 cows since previously we were only able to harvest male caribou and mature bulls in particular. We were recently advised that we can now harvest up to 25 cows without calves for the Baffin region. With these 25 cow-specific tags, are they deducted from the total allowable harvest of 250 or are these additional tags above and beyond the 250 tags? To repeat, is this allocation of 25 tags for cows included in the 250 tags for the Baffin region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his passion for discussing caribou. The number of tags for the Baffin region is set at 250 in total. At this time they can harvest 25 female

caribou, but the total number of 250 tags includes these cow tags. We are including them within the 250 tag allocation for the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Mr. Speaker, as we in the Baffin region are all aware... Well, perhaps it applies throughout all of Nunavut. With respect to total allowable harvests, I'll compare it with the polar bear harvest system since I deem them to be similar in terms of limited female harvest ratios with a set number. When the ratio for female polar bear harvesting is surpassed, then the overall tags are deducted with a formula.

I'm wondering if the same practice will be followed where tags are deducted with a formula for overharvests of female caribou or if it will be managed differently from the polar bear management system in Nunavut where the polar bear tags are deducted when cows are over-harvested. Will the caribou harvest quota be managed differently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The caribou and polar bear management systems are operated separately and distinct from one another. It is totally separate. In the case of polar bear, if the cows are over-harvested, then the next annual allotment of tags reflects that deduction based on

the formula. It's still unclear as to what will happen, but caribou management is done separately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Keyootak.

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for explaining that very clearly. This makes some Inuit exceptionally happy.

My last supplementary isn't really a question. Our esteemed elders in particular know the practice of harvesting specific caribou and now they won't be stuck with only toughened bull meat. That makes many Inuit very happy to be able to harvest tender cows. Real hunters who are listening and are extremely skilled most likely understand this, as it is now clear that we are pleased with being able to harvest cows in the Baffin region. This is a change Inuit wished for, so I am extremely grateful to the minister for making that decision. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Question 575 – 5(2): Protecting Our Children from Viral Infections**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to you. Before I ask my question to the Minister of Health, I would first like to thank him for his minister's statement regarding the developments being made

in the management of diabetes. I also have diabetes and I have received help. He said that the process has been improved and they have dedicated staff for that now and they have helped me a great deal. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago I questioned the government with respect to its position on providing a vaccine to Nunavut infants to protect them from the devastating effects of respiratory, and I'm going to try to wing the virus name, syncytial virus, also known as “RSV.” At the time the government refused to provide this vaccine on a Nunavut-wide basis.

Can the minister confirm whether or not it is still the government's position to not provide this vaccine to infants across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Department of Health does provide this vaccine to infants that are deemed high risk, following current medical practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recent article in the Canadian Medical Association's online journal, the *CMAJ Open*, shows that providing the appropriate medication to Nunavut infants can result in incredible cost

savings by preventing the illness from spreading and, as a result, fewer infants being sent out of territory for care and treatment of respiratory infections.

Can the minister clearly indicate whether his department has conducted any cost analysis comparing the cost of administering this preventative medication to infants across Nunavut to the overall costs of medevacs, admissions, and treatments for infants who contract the respiratory viral illness? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Directly to a cost benefit, it's hard to get that level of detail; for one, the numbers of births per year do fluctuate.

That being said, we did work very closely with Health Canada as recently as a couple of years ago to work on the effectiveness of different vaccines, but specifically for RSV, and following Health Canada's guidelines and recommended best practices, we do provide the vaccine to people who are at risk. There are a number of different categories that would deem that this vaccination or this treatment be available to them.

That being said, we are following Nunavik. They have put this vaccine out available across and we are following the progress of that program. As of now, I haven't seen the article that the member talks to, but recent medical information that I have been receiving is at this time it is not something that's recommended to do a blanket vaccination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that sometimes the cost gets in the way of service.

I do believe that our government should be forward-thinking. I think we can't afford to constantly address our issues from crisis management. I think we need to be proactive and we need to take the appropriate steps to prevent the spread of illness and to protect our children before the threat of illness is on our doorsteps. Recently somebody who I know had their baby medevaced because of RSV, and it really has an impact on the family, especially when the baby is so young.

Will the minister commit to conducting a full review of the government's decision not to offer this preventative medicine for all Nunavut infants to protect them against respiratory tract infections and consider reversing the government's position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This isn't a government-led or even a ministerial-led policy to not provide blanket coverage of this vaccine. This is following best medical practices. We have worked very closely with Health Canada and other jurisdictions to make sure that we do the best for our population. This isn't a matter of price. This is a matter of making sure that effective medical practices are being followed. That is the root of the decision, Mr. Speaker. It's not a political or a policy decision based on cost. It's following best medical practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaerner.

**Question 576 – 5(2): Update on the Igloolik High School**

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow residents of Amittuq. I will direct my question to the Minister of Education.

We're always returning to the new school in Igloolik. I would first like to ask for an update from the Minister of Education on the status of the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services awarded a contract to a (interpretation ends) Northern Quebec company, FCNQ Construction, (interpretation) to build the school. Over \$24 million has been allocated for that. Construction was supposed to be completed on June 1, 2018, but the floor of the new school was found to be inadequate. That is the reason for the delay and we've had the Department of Community and Government Services help us with the oversight of this project's progress to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clear explanation. The other question I have is: do you have a date set as to when the school will be opened? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The completion date has been postponed because the flooring needs to be worked on. However, the contractor has stated that a substantial part of it would be completed this month in 2019, but we expect the students to start attending the new school at the beginning of the school year in 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for explaining that clearly again. My final question to you is: will there be enough teachers available for the opening of the school or will there be too few? That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. Yes, we have planned for additional teachers. Whenever there is a new school being constructed in a community, we usually have to add teachers and we have already planned for that. As of October 11, last week, we had two NTA positions left to fill in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Question 577 – 5(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Initiatives**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As I stated earlier, there is a project in Rankin Inlet where they are training students to renovate an old housing unit. I like the project and I would like it extended to all the communities in Nunavut. I know that we all are experiencing a housing shortage and our young people and adults need more training on carpentry.

My first question is: can you give us an update on the project in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for the question. The Minister responsible for Arctic College can probably answer this question better than I can. The building that he is asking about was given to Nunavut Arctic College by the housing corporation to be used as a learning facility and Arctic College was provided funding from (interpretation ends) Family Services, (interpretation) and so we thank them for that. They were scheduled to be finished at the end of this month. I don't have any further updates except that they are scheduled to be finished this month.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm going to quote from the minister's statement on June 4 when he was quoting from our *Turaaqtavut* mandate. It says "Putting our communities first by offering local skills and trades training that will reduce our dependence on imported labour...". It says in there, Mr. Speaker, "Putting our communities..." It doesn't say "Putting one community." It doesn't say one pilot project for the whole territory. It says "our communities."

My next question for the housing minister is: what is currently holding us back from expanding this program to the whole territory? We have housing units, we have students, and we have educators. What is the barrier or maybe a better question, what is the timeline for expanding this important initiative to the rest of the territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) This pilot project is the first collaboration of its kind between, as I said earlier, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Department of Family Services, and Nunavut Arctic College.

I visited that unit in Area 5, I believe it is, every time I go through Rankin Inlet. It's a really successful program. We have two people from Rankin Inlet, one from Whale Cove, his riding, and one

from Naujaat being trained as they renovate the house.

I think we have hit a goldmine in terms of addressing our housing crisis. We have buildings that are uninhabitable now due to being run down, and I think we have hit a goldmine here. I would like to see it done all throughout Nunavut. This is just the first of its kind, so it sounds like it is a very exciting and successful program.

In terms of what I said earlier back in June, it's to become less reliant on exported labour...or imported labour, I should say. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Then maybe someday we will be exporting labour if we ever figure out how to train enough tradespeople. We could export them to the rest of the country, in fact.

I'm hoping to get a commitment from the minister here in terms of expanding this. We only have two years left in our mandate as a government. The capital estimates that we will be working on are for 2020-21. The window is closing to make a change. I'm going to ask the minister if the minister can commit to expanding this program, give it the fast track, give it the special treatment, whatever they have to do on that side of the House, to see this program in every community in Nunavut within the next year. It's doable. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are doing it now. We are making changes. I understand the LHO in Rankin Inlet has identified another unit. What is stopping other communities from going to Arctic College and say "We have a house here that needs to be renovated. We have students who are willing to come and learn."? All this stuff takes time and process. I'm certainly committed into doing more. It may not be next year, but certainly down the road, we're certainly looking at that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Member Qamaniq.

#### **Question 578 – 5(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment regarding caribou management.

In the Baffin region we have a total allowable harvest of 250 caribou, as we heard, and we can harvest up to 25 female caribou. I also understand that the communities in the Baffin region are allocated caribou tags based on their population.

My question is: if there are any communities that run out of caribou tags, can they get tags from another community if they still have tags or is that not permitted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 250 tags for the Baffin region and it's for the entire region. If a community runs out of caribou tags, they can request tags from another community because those tags are earmarked for the whole Baffin region. Through the hunters and trappers organizations, they can request tags from a community that hasn't run out of tags. It's at the discretion of the hunters and trappers organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

#### **Question 579 – 5(2): Housing Building Methods**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and are a follow-up to my previous questions.

I was quite surprised when the minister stated that it has been determined that the conventional stick-built construction is the most cost-effective method to build public housing units. I myself was under the impression that the efficiency of factory-built prefabricated or modular homes is more cost effective than conventional methods. I would like to ask to the minister when and how this was determined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing

Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That was done back in, I believe, 2017, but I stand to be corrected, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. I'm glad that it is a fairly recent determination, but I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to table this study or whatever method that was used to make this determination for the benefit of the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There was an RFP done back in 2017 which included modular, panelized and stick building design-build delivery proposals. The traditional stick-built proposal provided the most overall value and was determined to be the most cost efficient, as determined by the RFP evaluation committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. I would like to point out that this report was conducted in 2017 and as with all technologies, they continue to rapidly advance over time.

I would like to ask again if the minister would be willing to commit to tabling the results of this RFP process in which the minister determined that conventional construction methods were the most cost effective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are a transparent government and we always look for ways to improve our housing designs, so yes, I will commit to tabling the RFP so that the House can see it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

### **Question 580 – 5(2): Issues with Caribou Management**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Environment with respect to caribou.

First of all, I would like to express my thanks for the closure of the Ijiralik crossing area which stops the hunting of migrating caribou herds at that junction. It became dangerous when hunters were shooting randomly into a caribou herd and the herd stampeding as a result. I am very appreciative of the conservation officers who enforced the rules at that crossing.

Nonetheless, my question should resonate within Nunavut since we, the government, enacted this total allowable

harvest in the Baffin region of 250 caribou. If the situation continues in the Kivalliq region, we need to get a quota like the Baffin region because they're just shooting randomly. It's dangerous. I saw personally whole carcasses of caribou that had been killed indiscriminately. I took photos of them. Only choice parts such as their tongues were removed.

The minister does state that according to the (interpretation ends) *Wildlife Act*, (interpretation) those who abandon carcasses can be fined or arrested. However, they can't find who shot the caribou and just removed the tongues. I want to find out from the Minister of Environment how the suspects can be found. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, abandoning caribou meat is breaking the law. Anyone who abandons a carcass or has seen abandoned meat should inform the conservation officer and report the incident. The conservation officers can't be at all places at once, but people can help by informing the officers if they find abandoned carcasses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Environment for his response. There have been two incidents. Last summer I took a picture of abandoned carcasses and this summer I



saw two abandoned carcasses. I followed the whole procedure and I reported the incidents to the appropriate officials. Others have done the same thing. You know that. There are caribou carcasses being left out on the land daily.

As we are sitting here today, caribou in the Kivalliq are being killed for money. They sell the meat for around \$450 to \$650. It has totally changed from the traditional way we used to hunt as Inuit. We're now making money out of caribou. For that reason, has the government and cabinet considered how to lay a foundation for this in the future?

We're not hunting caribou just for subsistence anymore. We're treating caribou like a commodity. Caribou are harvested every single day. Not just one, but sometimes they shoot 10 to 20. If they harvest 20 and they earn \$400 each, they can then buy a snowmobile or a Honda. How is the Department of Environment laying a foundation for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's my last question.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have spoken numerous times on the selling of meat. The *Nunavut Agreement* states that Inuit have the right, as long as they don't break the laws, to sell the meat or the animal. Currently we cannot break that agreement. As a government we have to abide by the agreement. The *Nunavut Agreement* belongs to the Canadian government legislation. If an Inuk harvests a caribou and wants to sell the meat, they can do that. That's within the law. If they're not breaking any laws, they can sell the meat.

Yes, that's a concern. We do caribou population surveys in the Kivalliq and they are gradually going down, but there are still numerous caribou. We don't see any need for a quota system anytime soon. However, when it comes to the right of Inuit to sell caribou meat, we as a government cannot break that agreement, but the hunters and trappers organizations in the communities should be telling their citizens that we don't want them to do that. The HTO board has the authority to advise their harvesters about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Towntongie.

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I am quite aware that we have a right as Inuit. If we run out of caribou, we will only have a right but no caribou because we are not laying a proper foundation for the future. We are the descendants of people who had a proper foundation for wildlife management. We need to address the selling of wildlife while still maintaining our rights.

I would just like to make a comment; I don't have a question. I'm not just thinking about the Kivalliq. Caribou all over Nunavut are becoming fewer in numbers. No wonder that caribou everywhere are (interpretation ends) stressed. The caribou herds right across Nunavut are under stress. As a government, it's not acceptable to me to say that Inuit have rights and that we cannot do anything about it. If animals become an economic commodity across Nunavut, then we should put limits, such as commercial quotas and domestic quotas. If we do not, we will extinguish

these types of animals and we will have all the rights right after that. I have often spoken to the Minister of Environment on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's just a comment.

**Speaker** (interpretation): That was just a comment. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Question 581 – 5(2): Motor Vehicle Licensing Issuing Pilot Project**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. First off I would like to thank the minister for his statement earlier today on improvements to the motor vehicle issues that communities face. It's a step in the right direction.

In the minister's statement he stated that the pilot project was conducted in Taloyoak, and I'm not trying to take anything away from that community. I'm sure their issues with the motor vehicle system is similar to other communities, but can the minister explain to the House why Taloyoak was chosen for this pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main reason why this community was chosen is because there is a Core Business Network available in the government liaison office in

Taloyoak for this and the willingness by the GLO and our staff in talking to each other. One of the main reasons was because of the Core Business Network available in the office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in the minister's statement it stated that information can be put directly into the Motor Vehicles Information System and an application can be approved for production in Ottawa in a matter of hours. One of the issues with the application process is the mailing of driver's licences from Ottawa to regional centres for verification and then mailing these driver's licences out to the communities. Did this pilot project involve mailing the driver's licences directly to the communities from Ottawa to further speed up the process and, if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, as part of this pilot project, the community of Taloyoak was able to enter it into the system and get those approvals in place within our regional or headquarter offices. Our process is through that just to make sure that there are checks and balances. I believe, from what I understand and this will be going thing, one of my ongoing reviews is to see if we can send it directly to the communities with our systems in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member

Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the minister's statement it states, "We will continue to work together to develop a plan to bring these improvements to every community." Can the minister update the House today on the timeline to bring these improvements to other communities and which communities are next on this priority list? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities that have the Core Business Network and have offices with a GLO at this current time are the communities of Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, and Baker Lake. Those are the four communities that we are looking to try to set up. Those are the ones that do have the Core Business Network, but at the same time my staff are working with Community and Government Services to determine at what point the Core Business Network will be made available to the other offices. That's something that I think will be a little more long term, but as part of my ministerial statement, those are the communities that we're focused on in terms of making it available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Member Angnakak.

**Question 582 – 5(2): Elders at Embassy West**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to ask another question. Once again, I would

like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

I am well aware that the government is still in the planning stages for beds for (interpretation ends) long-term elder care. (interpretation) However, can the minister tell us how many elders have left the territory and are currently down south and residing at the Embassy West facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickers.

**Hon. George Hickers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The latest information I have is from September 26 and there are 33. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our elders are sent out and they experience difficult times. They are loved and their family members aren't able to go to see them. Is the minister able to inform the House of what happens to the family members of the elders who are sent away? If they are concerned about their elder, who do they approach to talk about their concerns and where can they call? That's the kind of information people would like to get because it's hard to know the condition of the elder who has been sent out, which is a concern. How can family members be assisted further so that they know where they can get more information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickers.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of different avenues that people can follow. There is the Office of Patient Relations. They can help direct the appropriate person to talk to, depending upon the situation where, if you're looking for medical information, there is also privacy legislation that limits who and how much information can be shared. There is the Embassy West staff directly. There is our Home and Continuing Care Division here within the Department of Health. There are a number of different avenues to discuss concerns.

I know the staff at Embassy West work very hard with families to make sure that they're kept up to date and then arrange FaceTime visits with their family. We do provide face-to-face visit opportunities for families as well. There are a number of different avenues. If the member wants to approach me with direct contact information for people in this area, feel free to do so, but failing in that, for the general population out there, they can either contact the Office of Patient Relations. It would probably be the most condensed focal point to be able to direct them depending upon who they're trying to contact and why. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) A number of Nunavummiut have come to me with concerns regarding the care and treatment that their family member is receiving at the Embassy West facility. I'm not sure whether or not these concerns are passed on to the department. I'm sure you get some of

them, but I'm wondering if the minister can commit to providing clear and concise information to this House on the number of complaints that have been received by his department regarding the care and treatment of the Nunavut residents at the Embassy West facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The facility itself, if there are any concerns that are brought forward from the activity there, those are provided through the Ontario Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority. Any complaints or concerns can be made to them. I would have to check to see exactly how any concerns are being brought forward to us, but from a facility standpoint, any concerns of care should be brought to the Ontario Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

### **Question 583 – 5(2): Correspondence to Federal Party Leaders**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for allowing me to ask another question. I rise to ask a question to our Premier.

We all know that we are going through a federal election right now and elections will be held after Sunday.

Nunavummiut, please go and vote. Last night I went to the CBC North debate. I appreciate that they had a debate with the candidates and I thank all the three candidates who were there. I am proud

of them and they're all capable in my view.

Our Premier made a statement earlier that he wrote a letter to the (interpretation ends) federal parties. (interpretation) How many of them responded and who were the leaders that responded? That's what I want to hear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wrote letters and two of them replied, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party. Those were the ones that responded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question for the Premier. He stated that he received two responses. After the Premier read the responses, which (interpretation ends) colour...

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) ...seems to be more appropriate for the Government of Nunavut to work with given the goals of the government's *Turaaqtavut* mandate? In looking at our goals, which party seems to fit more for the future of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the

response letters is now posted on the Premier's website and we just received the other one last night, which will be posted on the website as well. It is up to all Nunavummiut in terms of which party they will be voting for. They do a lot of campaigning, but as the Nunavut government we will have to work with whichever government is elected. We will work with the new MP. We will approach the new government and show them what Nunavut's needs are. We are lacking in so many things and we need a lot of help. After October 21 we are planning to work with whoever gets elected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. This is not the first time we have heard this from the Government of Nunavut. The government always states that no matter who is elected, we will work with them. It is like the Nunavut government never supports a particular candidate, yet Canadian provincial premiers express their support to the Conservative, Liberal or other parties. Even the Alberta Premier went to Ontario to go support the elections, which was in the news.

Has our Premier and his ministerial colleagues given any consideration to get away from usual practice and state their support for a particular party or candidate? Has there been any consideration along these lines? (interpretation ends) I guess my question is: did the cabinet, did the Premier and the ministers give any consideration during this federal election cycle to taking a position and standing up for what this government believes in?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the member is talking about is party politics in southern Canada, and yes, a particular party that is in power in a province would help their party that is running federally. That's understandable. Here in Nunavut we don't have party politics. We're a consensus government here and we're here to work with any government that is formed. Our job is to educate the new government or the new incoming ministers about all of our needs and wants.

We have not had any discussions on picking a federal party to support. We are here to work with any party that comes into power within the federal government. Our job is to educate the new government that comes in of all of our needs that we need, and we will work with the new MP that will be voted in shortly. We will work with that MP, whatever party colours that they have, and we will work with any government; the federal government. Our problem is that we have so many needs and we have to educate the federal government on our needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The time for question period has expired. Continuing on. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of

Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33 with Ms. Angnakak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 10:41 and Committee resumed at 11:00*

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

**Chairperson** (Ms. Angnakak): I call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 30, 31, 32, and 33. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At this time we wish to commence with the review of Bill 30 and the 2020-21 capital estimates, starting with the housing corporation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Do you agree that we first deal with (interpretation ends) Bill 30?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2020-2021 – Nunavut Housing  
Corporation – Consideration in  
Committee**

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Netser, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Most certainly, yes, please. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To my right is Terry Audla, President of the Housing Corporation, and to my left is Ji Liu, our Chief Financial Officer. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Netser, please proceed with your opening comments. Thank you.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good morning, my colleagues. I am here this morning to present the housing corporation's capital plan for 2020-21.

Madam Chairperson, the capital plan consists of \$43,443,000 from the Government of Nunavut and \$29,833,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (interpretation ends) Madam Chairperson, the CMHC's funding includes \$4.29 million, or the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, under the Social Housing Agreement and \$25,543,000 through the National Housing Strategy. These funding sources bring the total Nunavut Housing Corporation capital budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year to \$73,276,000. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funds will be combined with Government of Nunavut capital funding to increase the number of public housing units built in 2020-21.

The Nunavut Housing capital funding remains at approximately the same level as last year for modernization and improvement, or the M&I, for Nunavut Housing Corporation owned public housing and staff housing units and homeownership... .

**Chairperson:** I'm sorry, Mr. Netser. I have to interrupt you. We're getting some feedback and I think it's because your earpiece is too close to the microphone. Can you just make sure that the earpieces, if there are any near the microphone, are farther away? Thank you. You may proceed.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): I'm sorry. Do you want this farther away? Okay. (interpretation ends) I'll go back.

(interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Do you want me to start from the beginning?

The Nunavut Housing capital funding remains at approximately the same level as it was last year for modernization and improvement (M&I) for Nunavut Housing Corporation owned public housing and staff housing units and homeownership programs, which includes the Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program and the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Preventative Maintenance Program.

*Iksivautaaq*, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for the Fire Damage and Replacement Fund will decrease by \$3.7 million to \$1.0 million in 2020-21. This \$1.0 million in base funding is for repairs and demolition of units destroyed by fire in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will request fire damage funds in future years' capital plans to meet the needs of replacing our units. The future request will be based on a review of our building schedule as well as the needs list for the communities and districts.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's mobile fund will have a minor increase of \$5,000. This increase is to allow the corporation and the local housing organizations to keep up with the increase in public and staff housing units in our inventory across the territory.

Madam Chairperson, Nunavut's local housing offices' warehouse facilities are well over 20 years old on average, with many requiring significant maintenance and repairs. In addition, there has been substantial growth in the number of housing units to be maintained. Some of our warehousing facilities can no longer accommodate current demands. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's local

housing offices' warehousing fund will remain at \$7.36 million for fiscal year 2020-21.

In 2018 condition assessments were conducted on seven community warehouses and a priority list was established. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has issued a request for proposals for design development for the LHO complexes in Sanikiluaq, Cambridge Bay, and Arviat. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year the Nunavut Housing Corporation expects to complete schematic design in Arviat and Cambridge Bay and design development in Sanikiluaq. Plans for 2020-21 are to tender construction of the Sanikiluaq warehouse in the spring of 2020. Additionally the design development for the Arviat and Iqaluktuuttiaq LHO complexes will be completed in 2020, allowing construction to be tendered the following fiscal year.

*Iksivautaaq*, there is no change from last year in staff housing construction funding. The corporation anticipates construction of 15 new staff housing units across the territory, with \$5 million in 2020-21 GN capital funding for construction, combined with savings and carryovers from previous years. A number of factors are considered when allocating new staff housing construction. These units will be critical to meeting the GN's recruitment and retention needs.

There is no change from last year in public housing construction funding. In 2020-21 the Nunavut Housing Corporation anticipates construction of 35 new public housing units across the territory, with \$17.5 million in Government of Nunavut capital funding,



including savings and carryovers from previous years. Like all public housing construction, the allocation of these 35 units is based on the Nunavut Housing Corporation's needs-based public housing construction allocation methodology.

With this construction as well as new funding that will be coming to the Nunavut Housing Corporation from the federal government through the National Housing Strategy, we are steadily working to address Nunavut's severe housing crisis.

Madam Chairperson and committee members, *qujannamiiqpunga* for this opportunity. I look forward to a meaningful discussion. My officials and I will be pleased to hear your comments and answer any questions that you may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Minister Netser. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed capital budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$43,443,000. This represents a decrease of approximately 7.8 percent from its 2019-2020 capital budget of \$47,138,000. The majority of this decrease is accounted for by a decrease in the corporation's budget for

replacing fire-damaged units.

The ongoing shortage of public housing in all of Nunavut's communities is an issue of significant concern to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Although the 2017 federal budget announced \$240.0 million in funding over 11 years towards meeting housing needs in Nunavut, the 2018 and 2019 federal budgets contained no new Nunavut-specific housing funding. The standing committee continues to encourage the minister to provide ongoing updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of the implementation of the new National Housing Strategy. The standing committee notes that a recently published federal "progress report on housing investments" indicates that a bilateral agreement concerning housing was signed with the territory on August 2, 2019.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current methodology for determining new public housing construction allocations is formula-driven and based on relative needs. The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of ensuring that Nunavut residents have confidence in the transparency and accuracy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's approach to verifying wait-list numbers, and recommends that the minister continue the practice of tabling on an annual basis and in a timely manner the Nunavut Housing Corporation's updated allocation methodology and community allocations.

The standing committee notes that a number of commercial and residential construction projects utilizing modular

construction methods and “tiny home” technologies are currently underway in some Nunavut communities. The standing committee encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services to monitor developments in these fields for their potential applicability to public infrastructure projects.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of replacing public housing units that have been destroyed by fire. During the standing committee’s consideration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s 2019-2020 capital estimates, members raised significant concerns regarding the lack of clarity about how the Nunavut Housing Corporation manages the fire damage replacement program. The standing committee notes that information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that it is “...working towards developing a new policy to address the rebuild of fire-damaged units and how new construction may be addressed to meet the needs of communities.” The standing committee looks forward to the new policy being tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation’s proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for the construction of new staff housing units. Information provided by the corporation indicates that “...major determinants for allocating construction dollars include existing vacant units versus vacant positions in a community; planned new positions and staffing competitions in the community; forced sharing cases in

the community and availability of leasable units in a community.” However, the exact process by which the specific communities in which new staff housing is to be constructed is not entirely transparent.

During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised a number of concerns regarding the extent to which the Nunavut Housing Corporation is enforcing contractual provisions contained in its public and staff housing tenders regarding contractors’ use of local accommodations and fulfillment of Inuit labour content and training requirements.

On September 10, 2018 the federal and territorial governments announced a federal investment of almost \$12.0 million that will “...go toward energy efficiency retrofits for Nunavut’s public housing and the installation of new district heating systems in the communities of Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak. (...) Through the Nunavut Housing Corporation, housing retrofits will include new insulation, weather stripping, window and door replacements, as well as hot-water tank and furnace upgrades.”

The Nunavut Housing Corporation administers a number of different programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. The standing committee notes significant improvements in the level of detail contained in the Nunavut Housing Corporation’s most recent annual reports concerning the administration of its homeownership programs. This information will help all Members of the Legislative Assembly to better evaluate

the extent to which the corporation's homeownership programs are being accessed in small, medium and large communities.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's current business plan indicates that it has been undertaking a three-stage review of its homeownership programs. The standing committee looks forward to the results of the review being tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of ensuring ease of access to information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's homeownership programs, especially in smaller communities. The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of providing timely decisions on applications submitted under its homeownership programs. The standing committee also encourages the Nunavut Housing Corporation to explore options that would enable local housing organizations to offer, on a cost recovery basis, certain maintenance and repair functions to private homeowners in small communities that lack private contractors.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2017-18 annual report indicates that "Eligibility for homeownership programs is based on the applicant's income. Income testing is done against a community-specific Homeownership Program Income Eligibility limit (HPIE). HPIE limits range from \$158,500 in Arviat to \$186,000 in Resolute Bay. HPIE limits are calculated using a modified Core Need Income Threshold (CNIT). The CNIT is a formula based on Canada Mortgage and

Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Housing Income Limits (HILs) for calculating shelter costs, and is used to set public housing income limits." The homeownership program income eligibility limits have not been updated since October 2014. The standing committee continues to encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to regularly review its homeownership income eligibility limits to reflect the high cost of living in Nunavut's isolated communities.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates include funding for the purpose of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle reserve fund. The standing committee continues to recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual reports include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by local housing organizations.

On June 28, 2019 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals for a mould remediation plan. Information published by the Government of Nunavut indicates that a contract valued at \$2,217,000 was awarded to Dillon Consulting Ltd. to perform this work. Given the significant threat that mould poses to the health and well-being of our territory's residents, the standing committee continues to urge the minister to regularly update the Legislative Assembly on the status of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's efforts to combat mould infestation across the territory.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing

Corporation. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any general questions to the opening comments? General comments to the opening comments? Thank you. If not, we will proceed to review the Nunavut Housing Corporation capital budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year starting with page L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$43,443,000. Agreed? Any questions? Total Capital Expenditures. \$43,443,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson:** Okay. We will go to page L-2. L-2. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. L-2. \$43,443,000. Agreed?

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Chairperson:** I did ask if anybody had any questions. Nobody responded. I'm sorry.

We will take a 10-minute break. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 11:22 and resumed at 11:30*

**Chairperson:** I call the committee meeting back to order. We had some confusion there and we had some documents that weren't provided to everybody. What I'm going to do as Chair is I'm going to go back to L-3 and ask if there are any questions on page L-3. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good morning,

minister and your officials.

(interpretation ends) I would like to ask questions about the planned construction for public housing. We do have a letter here that we received from the chairperson of the housing corporation and it's a bit different than previous letters. It projects construction for two years. (interpretation) I would first like to know why it has been changed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for that question. The main reason is the shipping season. There is a very small window for shipping to the communities and that's the main reason that it's set for two years. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. From what I understand, the housing corporation sets the construction of housing units according to the (interpretation ends) waiting list (interpretation) in the communities. Is the housing corporation aware of these numbers? Are the communities treated equally?

(interpretation ends) When it comes to the waiting lists, does the housing corporation have confidence or does it have assurances that the waiting lists in each community are being maintained and are being dealt with in a consistent manner? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We work closely with the local housing organizations on allocating units to which community. As the housing corporation we treat communities in Nunavut equally. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The local housing organizations are different and they operate independently. I think they operate differently. I'll use an example. (interpretation ends) It's my understanding that in some communities, to get on the waiting list or to update your application, you actually have to walk into the housing association office, but in other communities it's not required. The housing association will hand out the forms and there's no entrance into the...you don't actually have to walk into the office. That's just an example of how these waiting lists may not be reliable data when you're looking at community to community. (interpretation) I would like to ask the minister if he has heard that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): I haven't heard of what my colleague is referring to, but with respect to the local housing organizations, (interpretation ends) we encourage them to reach out to the communities in terms of applying for

units and that's how we address the methodology of housing allocation. We do encourage the LHOs to reach out to the public. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Reading the documents, there will be no new housing construction in my constituency communities for two years, which is unfortunate, looking at the housing allocation.

(interpretation ends) You have allocated 70 housing units for Iqaluit for the upcoming season. To my recollection and based on the allocation numbers, that is the first time I think that the housing corporation has put out more than half of the public housing units for the entire territory into one community in one building season. You're building 130 public housing units across the territory and 70 of those are scheduled to go here.

Has the minister or the housing corporation considered setting a cap on the maximum number of public housing units that could be allocated to any one community in recognition of the need across all communities in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: No, we have not considered putting in a cap for how many units this particular community will get at any particular time, but we allocate housing based on the needs of

each individual community, and that's the housing allocation methodology. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I think I'm coming full circle with my kind of line of questioning. I'm concerned that the waiting list data that the housing corporation is using to allocate units is not reliable. The reason why is that we can look at the waiting list data going back the past three years, and if it was an accurate measure, the housing shortage is constant. It has been there for years. It has been there for decades. If this waiting list was accurate, was of good measure, you wouldn't see the numbers spike and then you wouldn't see them drop off a cliff. You would see some sort of stability because that's the nature of the housing crisis.

Instead, looking at these waiting list numbers, in certain communities their waiting lists in the period of one year increased by 155 percent. I'm sure that these public housing tenants or the waiting people didn't crawl out from under a rock. They have been there the whole time. The only issue is that this waiting list metric is not a good one and it's not a reliable one. We have Igloolik, for example, 54 percent of the people on the waiting list in the last year disappeared based on the data that is presented here.

It's concerning to me that this waiting list metric is not reliable and it may be one that's easily manipulated for whatever reason. I'm interested to hear if the minister and the housing corporation

share my concern that this waiting list metric is maybe one that needs to be adjusted going forward or even possibly in this fiscal year coming up. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) For the member to say that we're manipulating the numbers, that's unfounded. The reason why Igloolik had dropped to a lower level is because we recently constructed 20 housing units up there. That's why their numbers went down. With your indulgence, Madam Chairperson, I can ask my president to elaborate a bit more on that. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The construction allocation and methodology based on the needs list is always something that's changing from year to year depending on the actual number of applicants. Unfortunately there are some people that, for whatever reason, do not fill out these applications. Maybe they're discouraged because they might think that it could be a long wait. In those communities we try to encourage each LHO to reach out to the members within the community and to encourage people to actually fill out the applications.

When there is a jump or a spike in the number, that's based on the fact that people are actually now filling out these applications. What we want at the

housing corporation is to ensure that people who are in need actually fill out that application, and then you will see a jump in variation from community to community depending on the number of builds within that community. As the minister had alluded to, Igloolik as an example, they were up on the waiting list for 54 percent and then there were 20 units built in that community, and then they went down, so it reflects that.

What we're trying to do on a year-by-year basis is to encourage the LHOs to submit to the districts as well as to our Arviat office to ensure that there's accuracy in these numbers and to ensure that there is no actual manipulation. We do try to do checks on whether or not these numbers are accurate, and we will always try to maintain the accuracy of these numbers. As we go through the actual allocation based on needs, we then try to look at the overcrowding rate, as an example, and we need accuracy in those numbers as well.

If you can imagine, it's quite administratively heavy in the sense that we try to get all 25 communities to come in with their applications and needs based on each community, and then we check for accuracy and then go back to the LHOs and work back and forth that way. As you alluded to in your initial question, the six-month process in some communities, that may not be the case, but we do encourage each and every community to try to keep that application list updated as accurately as what's existing in that community. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Audla. I believe, Minister Netser, you wanted to add to that comment. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The more people who apply for a unit, it will be better for us to go to the federal government, "This is how many people who are on the waiting list." I do encourage my colleagues to get involved in going out to the constituents and say, "Have you applied? If you are 19 and over, have you applied to LHOs for a unit? If not, please do so." That's how the more numbers we have the easier it will be to make our case against the federal government for housing dollars. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister (interpretation ends) and Mr. Audla. The more I learn about this, the more problems I can see with relying on that waiting list data. Another problem, for example, I have a copy of the program application form from the Arviat Local Housing Association. It's seven pages long. It's a quite comprehensive form. It requires a whole bunch of information. If I wanted to pump up my waiting list numbers, I would require a two-page form.

When it comes to these application forms, which are the waiting lists which determine where the houses go, does every housing association have a seven-page form? Is there a standard format or is it just each housing association does their own? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I also thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I understand it's a standard form all across the board. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying that. That's good if it is standardized.

Another example where the waiting list numbers could be manipulated, let's say you have a young couple and they're in a common-law relationship, is each person in that relationship allowed to apply for a housing unit or are they required by the local housing association to list their names on the same application form? Again, going to manipulation, if I want to increase the numbers on my waiting list, I'm going to tell everybody who is going in to apply, "You're a single person for the purposes of this application. You don't have a common law. You guys both put in an application and then we get twice the number of people on the waiting list."

When it comes to examples like that, is there a common approach across the housing associations in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: I understand that each person at the age of 19, whether they're common law or not, can apply for a unit. Mr. Audla can clarify that. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Audla.

**Mr. Audla**: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In the application itself it's required that they list either their spouse and their dependants, and this is why we leave it with the local housing organization to ensure accuracy in the application because they're the ones that know best who within their communities are need of houses based on the applications.

Once the LHOs have received these applications, they first check it for whether or not it has been filled out in the most accurate manner and that nothing is missed. Once they determine that these applications are actually filled out, then they collect them and then send them to the district for further checking. On a once-a-year basis these same numbers are then sent to the central headquarters office in Arviat for further review. Based on those numbers, we then start going back and forth with the districts and the LHOs to ensure accuracy.

It's the local housing organizations that make the determination as to whether or not there's inaccurate information being put into the application form, and we put the faith in the local housing organization to be able to carry out that task. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) On page 6 of 7 of this letter it mentions here, "refining and modifying the formula," and it seems that there is



some concern there within the housing corporation. I'll quote from this letter. "NHC is reviewing the possibility of adding a general measure of overcrowding to the allocation formula." It also says, "Using this additional measure could reduce volatility of the rankings." It sounds like it would be helpful. How soon can this measure of overcrowding be included in this allocation? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The NHC is continually working to refine the accuracy of needs and eliminate issues of standardization between communities. For example, in the future, like the member alluded, the NHC may include overcrowding data in the needs of population. We really depend on the LHOs to do their due diligence in terms of informing the Nunavut Housing Corporation on the overcrowding status in each community. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When it comes to this letter and the methodology and the decision on where the housing units are going to go, is it the minister who has the authority to allocate these units or is it the board of the housing corporation? This is a governance thing I'm trying to get clarification on. Is it the board that has the authority to change the methodology

or is it the minister? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Chairperson**: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The board of the housing corporation makes the determination as to which community the housing units will be allocated to. (interpretation ends) The other thing, Madam Chairperson, is there are some communities now with really old stock that we have to start looking at replacing. That is one way of maybe spreading the construction throughout Nunavut is to get rid of these really old units out of our stock by replacing them with multiplexes. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation ends) Mr. Main, you have 41 seconds left.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) When it comes to this methodology, overcrowding is useful. Another metric that would be useful, and I will use Arviat as an example, I believe that the person at the top of the waiting list in Arviat right now has been on there for 9 or 11 years.

In my mind, somebody who has been on the waiting list for nine years carries more weight than somebody who just got on the waiting list yesterday, but based on this current methodology, one person on the waiting list is one person on the waiting list, and I don't think that's right. I think that we should be trying to address the backlog of housing

needs in our communities.  
(interpretation) Has this been considered as well? That's my final question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson.  
(interpretation ends) Really, the discretion is through the local housing organizations as to who will get the housing. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress, please. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debateable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed.

>> *Laughter*

Okay, the motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Angnakak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move

that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Minister Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Continuing on. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that the Regular Members' Caucus meets at half past one this afternoon and again on Monday morning at nine o'clock. Also a reminder, there's a meeting with the Minister of Justice tomorrow at ten o'clock. All meetings are being held in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for October 21:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions

12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters >>*House adjourned at 11:58*
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- Bill 30
  - Bill 31
  - Bill 32
  - Bill 33
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Before we adjourn for the day, our son, Derek Mikkungwak, is going to celebrate his birthday tomorrow, and my father-in-law will be celebrating his birthday on Sunday, Matthew Kungangnat. I hope they enjoy their days.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

