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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

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(Cambridge Bay)
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

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

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

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)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, September 23, 2020****Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak,
 Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George
 Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr.
 Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne
 Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr.
 John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk,
 Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin
 Pedersen, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon.
 Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon.
 Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms.
 Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)

(interpretation): Good day, my
 colleagues. Before we begin, I will ask
 Member Netser to say the opening
 prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you,
 Member Netser. Even though it's windy
 in Iqaluit, I know that we will proceed
 smoothly. To all Nunavummiut, please
 feel welcome as you watch the
 proceedings. First of all, Ministers'
 Statements. Minister of Environment,
 Minister Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 444 – 5(2): Polar
 Bear Management in Nunavut a
 Continued Success**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise
 today to inform this Assembly that my
 department has recently completed final
 polar bear study reports for two
 subpopulations that were surveyed in
 recent years. I'm pleased to report that
 the Gulf of Boothia and the M'Clintock
 Channel polar bear subpopulations are
 currently healthy.

Mr. Speaker, the affected communities
 and all co-management partners have
 been informed about the results, and the
 Department of Environment is currently
 planning consultation meetings with the
 hunters and trappers organizations. The
 department is also preparing for new
 studies to survey the Lancaster Sound
 and Norwegian Bay subpopulations,
 which are also a priority for
 communities in North Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, our commitment to polar
 bear research, management and
 conservation is ongoing and we continue
 to work together with our communities
 and hunters to maintain healthy polar
 bear subpopulations for Nunavummiut.
 In this work the department engages
 with co-management partners not only in
 Nunavut but across all jurisdictions
 where we share polar bear
 subpopulations. Through this multi-
 stakeholder approach, our polar bear
 management and conservation efforts
 have been successful for many years,
 and it is our aim to be effective and
 engaging partners in this work.

As a last note, Mr. Speaker, I would also
 like to highlight the Department of
 Environment's dedication to applying
Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in polar bear
 research and management. My
 department has initiated, supported, and
 led a strong, simultaneous balance

between *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* studies and scientific studies to strengthen the success of our co-management system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 445 – 5(2):
Update on Review of Housing
Programs**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, I had committed to conducting an independent review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing rent scale to address concerns related to its application and fairness to Nunavummiut. I also committed to an independent review of Nunavut Housing's construction allocation methodology, the construction cost and methods, and an analysis of the economic leakage caused by transient workers.

I am pleased to inform my colleagues that contracts for both reviews were signed and work is now underway. NVision Insight Group Inc. will complete the work for the rent scale review and Colliers Project Leaders Inc. will undertake the work on the construction allocation methodology. Final reports will be completed next spring and will hopefully be available by June 2021.

I hope the reviews and the information presented in the final reports demonstrate to my colleagues and members of the public that the corporation is transparent and accountable. I take the concerns of Nunavummiut seriously and I want to ensure that public housing and homeownership program are delivered with fairness and transparency to those in need. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

**Minister's Statement 446 – 5(2): A
Safe Return to School**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, since schools were closed to students in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many students have been excited to return to school this fall and continue their studies. To ensure that learning continues under any scenario the pandemic may bring, the Department of Education developed a set of comprehensive health and safety plans and guidelines. These plans are publicly available on my department's website and were developed in collaboration with the chief public health officer and our education partners.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, these plans and guidelines were provided to all schools and include information on the four stages that will direct school operations on the impacts of COVID-19,

enhanced cleaning protocols, classroom set-up in each stage, and information on the use of personal protective equipment. As part of these plans, my department contracted BluMetric Environmental to deliver in-person training to school custodians and leaders on enhanced cleaning processes. This training was also provided to licensed child care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the many steps my department has taken to ensure that school staff are comfortable and capable of delivering these plans, guidelines, and enhanced cleaning protocols to keep students, staff, and communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, by working together, we can provide a healthy and productive learning environment for students, no matter the challenges that may come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 447 – 5(2):
QEC's COVID-19 Response**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) members, and those in Iqaluktuuttiaq. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that during the territory's COVID-19 pandemic response this spring, the Qulliq Energy Corporation continued to deliver safe and reliable electricity to Nunavummiut. The corporation's dedicated team of

workers ensured the lights stayed on across the territory.

Following the direction of the chief public health officer and to ensure safety, all four customer care offices closed on March 23. At the same time, as a preventative response, all non-essential Qulliq Energy Corporation staff began to work from home whenever possible.

To offer some financial relief for customers with reduced income, the billing division offered flexible payment plan options to residential and commercial customers, waived late payment fees, removed power limiters, and halted disconnections.

In addition, duty travel was restricted to emergencies only. When essential travel was required, hamlet administrators were notified in advance.

Safety is a top priority at the Qulliq Energy Corporation. When the chief public health officer recommended returning to the workplace with conditions, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Health and Safety Division created a comprehensive exposure control plan, enabling the corporation to reopen and minimize the risk to workers. All staff received return-to-work details prior to restarting on June 8. Upon returning to work, employees attended sessions to review the Qulliq Energy Corporation's preventative COVID-19 measures.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's care staff offices resumed normal operating hours on June 15, with a limited number of people allowed in at one time to maintain physical distancing

requirements. The first hour of operations, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., continues to be designated for elders and other vulnerable groups. In August the corporation returned to regular overdue account practices. Customers who are unable to pay their bills are reminded to contact the Qulliq Energy Corporation office to set up a flexible payment plan in order to avoid disconnection or installation of power limiters.

I want to commend all of Qulliq Energy Corporation staff on their continued dedication to providing an essential service to the territory. At the same time I want to thank all of the communities for cooperating with the Qulliq Energy Corporation as they continue to provide reliable and safe electricity to all Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 448 – 5(2):
Adaptation of the Community
Tourism and Cultural Industries**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with our guiding principle of Qanuqturniq, my department has strived to adapt our existing program offerings to meet the needs of Nunavummiut during this pandemic. Today I would like to highlight three changes to our Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program.

- First, to support a larger volume of smaller at home projects, we have removed the funding cap on materials and supplies.
- Second, also to support smaller projects, we moved from fixed application deadlines to receiving applications year-round.
- Finally, we launched the “Nunavut Public Art Initiative.” This project which utilizes an additional \$150,000 is specifically targeted at supporting artists to create public artworks in their community.

Eligible projects range broadly, from large-scale carving outdoors, a mural outside or inside a building, to temporary projects made specifically for one place, such as soundwalks in communities.

Through two intakes, we received a total of 17 applications from all regions of Nunavut, from established artists to youth, working with varied medium from video to carving and craft.

I would like to thank all artists in our territory for bringing entertainment, inspiration, hope, and joy to Nunavummiut in a time when we particularly need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 449 – 5(2):
Elders during COVID-19**

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of the public health measures Nunavut had to put in place to protect our communities from COVID-19 were particularly difficult for our elders. Physical distancing bans on community feasts and other gatherings, and reduced opportunities to visit with loved ones limited the social interactions that are important to our elders.

Mr. Speaker, our elders are vital members of our community and that is why the Department of Health worked to ensure they were not forgotten during these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, over the past six months, staff began programs designed to keep our elders engaged with their communities and families while also addressing the mental health support they needed.

Mr. Speaker, our continuing care centres, where visiting was limited, helped clients engage with their families through video chats. Our staff also organized traditional games, screened traditional movies, and organized trips on the land.

Mr. Speaker, our Quality of Life Division helped community elders by offering mental health supports. Staff also organized activities such as a community tea, in compliance with public health measures, to keep our elders active and social.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring the well-being of our elders is a priority of the Department of Health and demonstrates a

commitment to Inuusivut under our current mandate of *Turaaqtavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister for Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 450 – 5(2):
Nunavut Hidden Homelessness
Survey**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In 2018 the Department of Family Services collaborated with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Employment and Social Development Canada to conduct the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey. The goal of this research was to develop a better understanding of the needs and circumstances of Nunavummiut experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, in conducting this research, individuals from across Nunavut have shared their experiences with homelessness and overcrowding. We have heard many stories of hardship and suffering but also of resilience and community and family support. Every day, individuals and organizations in our communities work selflessly and tirelessly to help those without a home.

>> *Applause*

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the participation from the communities of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Arviat, and Gjoa Haven and the survey participants for their time and

contribution to the report. It is important that the report reflects the realities of individuals experiencing homelessness to better inform ongoing work to address these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this research will be used to build awareness of the extent and impact of homelessness in Nunavut and to advocate for additional resources. My department will work in collaboration with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and other partners to inform housing policies and recommend where best to put efforts to address homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will be tabling the Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey. I would like to thank the continued efforts of all Nunavummiut in working to find solutions to addressing homelessness in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements are done. Let's proceed. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 676 – 5(2): CERB Payments

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. To the people of Arviat and Whale Cove, I say "good day" to you.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I rise today to speak about the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. I believe that right now it's unlikely the Prime

Minister is listening to the proceedings of this House; he may be busy with his Throne Speech.

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to our federal government for stepping up and offering financial assistance to Canadians, including Nunavummiut, during a time of hardship through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. The \$2,000 per month payments have been beneficial for some of my constituents who were put out of work or left without a source of income due to lockdown restrictions, COVID-related restrictions.

However, as with many federal initiatives, the impact of this CERB payment has been mixed in Nunavut. There have been positive aspects and some negative aspects, and there have been many issues around the clarity with which the program guidelines were communicated and how the program itself was delivered in Nunavut, including, I should note, Mr. Speaker, some pretty fundamental issues around language. There was a complete lack of Inuktitut language service.

I do realize that this is the federal government's problem and they do have to answer for how they delivered this program. However, there was an important interaction between the Income Assistance Program delivered by the Department of Family Services through this government and the federal CERB program. In a short period of time some income assistance recipients have switched to CERB as a source of income. Some of these recipients were likely eligible for the CERB payments and some were likely not eligible.

In terms of how this will play out in the months to come... .

I do request unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is requesting unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, members.

In terms of how the CERB payments and the income assistance issue, how those will all be cleaned up, so to speak, at tax season, during the coldest and one of the hardest times of year for many people in Nunavut, this is unclear at this point. There are many unanswered questions about how ineligible CERB recipients will be impacted by federal wrap-up or clawback provisions as part of the CERB program, and it's unclear how income assistance recipients will transition back from CERB to income assistance when that time comes.

For this reason, I do have some questions for the Minister of Family Services, and these are very important issues that need to be clarified for many Nunavummiut, including my constituents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Towntongie.

**Member's Statement 677 – 5(2):
Appreciation for Rankin Inlet's
Pandemic Committee**

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, I say "have a great day" to you all, as well as to my colleagues here.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to express my appreciation for the Rankin Inlet Pandemic Committee which was established to prepare the community for an outbreak of COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative was brought forward by the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet. I would especially like to recognize the Rankin Inlet Fire Chief, Mark Wyatt, for bringing together the different agencies to plan for a possible pandemic. A physician from the Department of Health helped to train us in what seemed like a simple task, putting on personal protective equipment like gloves and masks and taking them off in the safest manner, ensuring maximum coverage and minimal exposure.

There were volunteers from each sector of the Rankin Inlet community. Our Recreation Coordinator, David Clarke, prepared the new arena as a location for possible hospital beds. The drop-in centre was designated as a COVID-19 testing centre. Kivalliq Hall would be made available for individuals in isolation with each being able to have their own washroom, thanks to Matthew Ayres.

I would like to thank all the different agencies who participated in the preparedness training as well as the staff

from the hamlet and the community health centre for their hard work.

I also wish to acknowledge the Co-op, the Northern Store, the Royal Bank, and the CIBC bank for ensuring social distancing.

Mr. Speaker, it is very reassuring to see how the community can pull together in times like these and I am very grateful to everyone for their efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, who will then be followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Keyootak

**Member's Statement 678 – 5(2):
Issues with Tammaativvik
Boarding Home**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise concerns from my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, many people have told us about what is called the Tammaativvik Boarding Home for Baffin medical travel patients. It is used for Baffin medical patients, but it has not only been Baffin patients who have been staying there lately. They are now coming from around Nunavut. Our constituents have a big concern about the bad conditions there, and I think many of us know that there are daily concerns coming out of there that are not only brought to me but also to you as the minister. It is not running well.

There are patients who do not speak English and some of these people have serious medical issues. Some people who have never been to Iqaluit before have raised so many different concerns about the way Tammaativvik operates. Some of us are spoken to directly about that and some of us are called daily from Tammaativvik. We know the way it operates needs to be corrected. When patients are staying there for various medical reasons, some of whom may be feebler than others, some of them are very knowledgeable about Iqaluit and some of them aren't very familiar with Iqaluit. There are different people that are here for the hospital, and there are very serious concerns about this.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will be asking questions on this issue to the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 679 – 5(2):
Celebrating Occasions in
September**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to you, as well as to the people of Pangnirtung.

I rise today to state that the month of September is a big month for celebrations and we are thankful for many reasons. My father turned 85...

>>Applause

...and my husband and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary this month. I am very thankful to my partner.

>>Applause

It is also my sister Annie Karpik's birthday. I want to wish her happy birthday.

Also, I am very excited that tomorrow my in-laws will finally be returning home after a long stay out of the community for medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of our fellow Nunavummiut celebrating special days. Members' Statements. Member Netser, who will then be followed by the Member for Rankin Inlet, Member Kusugak. I have no other names after that. Member Netser.

Member's Statement 680 – 5(2): Coral Harbour High School Graduates

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month our community of Coral Harbour had an occasion to celebrate the graduation of 17 students. I believe that is the highest number of graduates in the history of our local school. Mr. Speaker, their names are:

- Flora Gibbons
- Blaire Nakoolak
- Sonny Sanertanut
- Abel Kalai Jr.
- Justin Bruce
- Sandy Pudlat
- Madison Bruce

- Dawn Siutinar
- Lucassie Jr. Nakoolak
- Haley Saviadjuk
- Haley Jones
- Renee Rose Nakoolak
- David Gibbons
- Nichole Pootoolik

The day before yesterday, we went clam digging with Nichole. It was a lot of fun.

- Brad Pootoolik
- Rachel Ningeocheak
- Karleen Kaludjak

Mr. Speaker, out of the total number of graduates, ten of them pursued further education, with some taking courses here in Iqaluit, while others went to Alberta for their post-secondary education, and I am quite proud of their accomplishments. When our youth are provided opportunities, they are provided an opportunity to improve and succeed, and we have many future leaders who are increasing, so we have a reason to celebrate and a wonderful future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of them. Members' Statements. Member Kusugak.

Member's Statement 681 – 5(2): Rankin Inlet High School Graduates

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many people of Rankin Inlet are going through a difficult time. We send them our condolences and they are in our thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, in Rankin Inlet this summer we had 26 graduates. We are proud of the graduates and we wish them a bright future, whichever path they are pursuing, whether it is a different career wherever they need assistance. I know all members here advocate assistance for our students. There are many names here, so I will try to announce the names of the many graduates:

- Shannel Angutetuar
- Brittany Aggark
- Hunter Alogut
- Joshua Curley
- Shanti Dias
- Trinity Hickes
- Dwayne Innuksuk
- Venessa Innuksuk
- Bonnie Irkootee
- Quintien Issaluk
- Kailee Karlik
- Hayley Kolit
- Shayla Manernaluk
- Tiana Manernaluk
- Elinor Mercer
- Katherine Nasook
- Manuel Netser
- Kimberly Pilakapsi
- Chase Powell
- Misiraalaaq Powell
- Methuselah Qiyuk
- Kevin Sadiwa
- Crystal Sammurtok
- Brayden Subgut
- Tanya Tugak
- Gerard Uluqsi

Those are the graduates. We're so proud of them, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. You reminded me of that song when you

said "*taakkua tavva.*" Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 924 – 5(2): Forfeiture Office

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) A question was asked of me by Mr. Tony Akoak, MLA for Gjoa Haven, No. 924 – 5(2), and the subject was the forfeiture office.

The question was:

Earlier this year I joined with other Members of the Legislative Assembly to approve the Department of Justice's 2020-21 main estimates, which included \$229,000 in funding for the new forfeiture office. Can the minister confirm how much of this funding has been spent to date?

My response:

From August 2019 to March 31, 2020, the forfeiture office spent \$117,000. From April 1, 2020 to September 21, 2020, the forfeiture office spent \$79,064.

Some additional information for the members:

In addition to the above question regarding the funding of the forfeiture office, the department would also like to clarify what the funds seized by the office can be used for. As per the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, funds seized by the office may be used to:

- supplement the budget of the office;
- compensate directly the victims of unlawful activity;
- increase the amount in the Victims Assistance Fund, which funds community programs; or
- to fund a community wellness program directly, based on consultation with the prescribed community groups.

For the forfeiture office to fund community wellness programs or to compensate victims, there first needs to be funds or property ceased by the office. The work of this office will take time to get underway. We likely will not see major investments in the community until the office is operational and it has had time to commence and proceed with forfeiture files. Community investment is a longer term outcome that depends on a substantial quantity of money or goods being ceased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Minister Akeeagok.

Return to Oral Question 922 – 5(2): Air Transportation

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I want to mention that the people of Arctic Bay are in my thoughts, especially those who recently had to attend a funeral. Thank you.

I was asked a question by Ms. Cathy Towtongie, MLA for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. She requested information on how much funding has

been provided to the airlines. It was Question 922 – 5(2), asked on September 21, 2020, and the subject was on air transportation. She asked a question as to how much direct funding was provided to the airlines. She asked, “Can the minister confirm how much funding to date has been provided to Calm Air? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.”

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer I gave during question period on Monday, September 21, 2020. The Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet requested information on how much funding has been provided to Calm Air by the Government of Nunavut. In my answer, I stated that the Government of Nunavut had provided \$7 million to Calm Air for air transportation support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that the Government of Nunavut has authorized two special warrants, one for \$7 million and another for \$2.6 million, for a total of \$9.6 million in contributions to Calm Air to date. However, we must recognize that part of those funds will come back to the Government of Nunavut in the form of refunds on any duty or medical travel taken over the April to July period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. As I mentioned before, there will be no visitors allowed in our Chambers. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, who will then be followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Member Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 944 – 5(2): COVID-19
Second Wave Response**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak, as well as to my colleagues.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, first I want to say that I will be asking questions about COVID-19.

(interpretation ends) First I wish to recognize the good job that our leaders and the chief public health officer and his team have done to keep Nunavummiut safe from the COVID-19 virus to date. However, we are hearing of a steady increase in the number of cases in other Canadian jurisdictions and across the world.

Can the minister confirm that his department is currently preparing Nunavut's pandemic response to the second wave of the COVID-19 virus?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the comments to the public health team. They have been doing an amazing job and are doing very well at keeping the cabinet and the public informed.

One of the benefits of what we have done to date is create a "Nunavut's Path" and it differs from a lot of the pandemic responses from around the country and

around the world. It's that we don't establish timelines or dates specifically with our measures or easing or restricting measures, so it gives us the flexibility to be able to adapt as first waves, second waves, or even third waves down the road. It gives us the ability to be able to react to the current status and those are reviewed constantly by our public health team in conjunction with other chief public health offices around the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) Positive COVID-19 cases at two mines in Nunavut were recently announced. While I have been given to understand that these individuals contracted the virus outside of Nunavut and they did not travel to any Nunavut communities on their way to the mines, it will still feel as if the threat of the virus is coming closer. Can the minister confirm that the risk to Nunavummiut from COVID-19 remains low, even though the virus has now appeared in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member using the word that it appears to be coming closer. I think it has been close all the way along. We have to continue to practise the measures that we have in place. That is what is helping keep us safe. It's not just the isolation hubs. It's

not just the measures that the chief public health officer has taken through us. It is every individual in the territory has a responsibility to maintain the social distancing, wear masks where you can't, maintain proper hygiene, clean common area surfaces regularly, and more importantly, stay home if you are sick. We are still categorizing that it is a low risk in Nunavut, but it is something we all have to keep on top of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response on the coronavirus.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is clear that one of the most frightening aspects of this pandemic is not knowing what is going to happen next. However, living in an environment like ours has taught us that being prepared is the key to survival.

Can the minister describe what specific steps will be taken as a priority if a case of COVID-19 is detected in a Nunavut community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll give as fulsome an answer as I can, Mr. Speaker. There are some variables on which community COVID would appear in, whether it be Iqaluit or an outlying, so there are different responses that would occur.

The initial response, if it happens outside of Iqaluit, we have what's termed as a rapid response team which, with the false-positive case in Pond Inlet, gave us a dry run to actually roll out our rapid response team and get some feedback from the community and the clinicians that are already located in the community. We do currently have two rapid response teams that are ready to fly out at a moment's notice if a community has a case and especially so if there's a potential for any transmission in the community.

We are keeping on top of it. We do have a rapid response. The challenge that we would have is if there were numerous communities with COVID-19 at the same time. That would stretch our resources very thin where we would have to seek outside assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Nakashuk.

Question 945 – 5(2): Taking COVID-19 Precautions

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Health.

This novel COVID-19 pandemic is something we have discussed, particularly within these last six months with public announcements on cleaning tips, residents' duties related to protecting one's family and communities. This applied to all communities no matter what size, as

Nunavummiut followed strict instructions for isolating at home and reducing their contact with anyone outside of the family. This included washing hands after activities, which many people have followed.

However, with the fortunate status of zero COVID in the territory, restrictions have eased and after a long period of limiting their interactions, some individuals are no longer being as cautious as they were in the beginning. We all know that it hasn't reached Nunavut yet, but it's growing, so we would like to see that carry on.

My first question is: can the minister clarify how the current guidelines for social distancing and keeping ourselves free of COVID are being explained and encouraged in our communities? What steps have been taken within the stores or workplaces? What is set in place? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have already coined a term called "COVID fatigue" of people starting to relax their diligence on following the measures.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of resources available, some fantastic resources available on the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission website on different levels of business categories of where social distancing may be a challenge or what measures that businesses can take to mitigate. There's a questionnaire on there that businesses can take a look at to see what

measures they can put in place to keep their clientele and their staff safe. I strongly encourage any business operator that has concerns of lack of knowledge to look at that website.

I have mentioned it at press conferences in the past, but I'll take this opportunity to highlight that if people go to the website, they can see a lot of resources on how to mitigate any concerns that they may have. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As one of my colleagues mentioned, southern Canada is facing a second wave of COVID cases and the number of increased positive cases throughout the southern part of Canada and the world, I'm curious to know: can the minister describe how he is working with the chief public health officer to prepare for the worst and ensure that Nunavut communities will be protected from the risk of a spread of the COVID-19 virus? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say one thing: in the last six months I have never spent so much time with doctors without having something bleeding or broken.

There have been regular updates that we have when we are doing the press conferences; at one point, three times a week. I was meeting with the chief

public health officer three times a week. Also, through my deputy minister, there is a lot of interaction between herself and the public health office to make sure that the Department of Health is coordinating with the public health measures because there is a line of separation between those two offices to make sure that we are kept aware of all the measures and easing and restricting of measures and information as it comes in.

I'm sure all members can appreciate that when this started back in late January, there were some early discussions with our health officials and at public health. Things have changed dramatically up to now. Even from the World Health Organization's recommendations there have been changes. We have worked very closely with Health Canada. I have been on conference calls with Dr. Theresa Tam and Minister Hajdu with the federal government. We do, I think, a very good job of keeping informed, and I think through the press conferences that the Premier and I have been holding, we have been doing a very good job of keeping Nunavummiut informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Madam Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. As the minister stated earlier, information is available on the website for the communities regarding COVID-19. I am aware that some people do not read or speak English and they don't use computers. How else are you conveying

that information on the dangers of COVID to the communities? Through the post office? We are all aware that smaller communities in Nunavut can be very vulnerable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a great point and we have been working very hard to make sure communities are kept informed and that people who aren't technologically connected are kept informed. We have sent posters out to the communities to post in public places. Any questions can be directed to the health centre and, if they are complicated, they can be forwarded on outside. We have a COVID-19 hotline that is manned during business hours, where interpreter services are available as well. If anyone has any questions, please help keep the communities informed. I believe they either have or are in the process of doing radio scripts for different things as well.

I encourage people, just through word of mouth is the best communication as anything that we have found; the local grapevine. If you have friends or family that aren't informed, help get them informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member Uqummiut. Mr. Main.

Question 946 – 5(2): Income Assistance and CERB

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Family Services. Mr. Speaker, it's on the topic of the interaction between the Income Assistance Program and the federal CERB benefit.

Mr. Speaker, in correspondence from the minister dated September 17, the minister communicated, "A comparison of income assistance clients from February to August 2020 shows a decrease of 2,049 heads of households seeking or receiving income assistance payments. We do not have data that allows us to track why clients have not made appointments to seek income assistance, but it would be reasonable to conclude that CERB has had a significant impact."

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the minister is: what is the interaction between the CERB benefit and Nunavut's Income Assistance Program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The interactions between the CERB program and the income assistance would be for seeking income assistance, you need to show whether you had any money flowing to your account. If they had received CERB, they would know that they wouldn't qualify for income assistance. That's probably the biggest interaction that's between those two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My understanding is the income assistance recipients can either receive income assistance or they can receive CERB, but they cannot receive both. In that regard, unless I'm mistaken, we stand in contrast to our northern neighbours in the NWT and Yukon where exemptions were put into place to allow the most disadvantaged residents of our northern neighbours to receive both at the same time.

Out of that 2,049 heads of households decrease, the minister's correspondence mentions that "It would be reasonable to conclude that CERB has had a significant impact..." Does the department have any understanding of how many of those individuals who have transitioned to CERB were eligible for the CERB program or non-eligible? What is the department's understanding in terms of approximate eligible applicants and non-eligible applicants? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For some cases, as you mentioned, the two territories do allow for CERB. For some cases where our Nunavummiut that are earning part-time income and need assistance through the income assistance, those would qualify under CERB too. I just wanted to point that out to the members that it is not just a

straight cut-off if they get CERB, they cannot earn the income assistance.

To determine whether they can have income assistance or not, I would rather that they call our income assistance workers to figure it out because there are some formulas that each individual is unique and for the needs. What we have been advocating for is that for those that do need income assistance that they call ahead and book an appointment so they can go through this. When they disclose whether they received CERB or not, that would be taken into factor when they're doing their income assistance review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Further on in his correspondence of September 17, the minister indicated, "We continue to work with our federal partners to improve communications and clarity regarding CERB and to express our concerns about fairness and the impact that repayment requirements will have on vulnerable Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged to see this in the minister's correspondence. I wonder if the minister could clarify: what are the department's concerns about fairness and the impact that repayment requirements will have on vulnerable Nunavummiut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister of Family Services, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot of work that the department along with me and our Premier are doing to try to see how that impact can be lessened if there were to be any repayments. As you know and it is clear in their criteria that this is taxable and that come income tax time when somebody files for it, the federal government is going to look for that money.

Through that, with our understanding and those that are in vulnerable places, because the majority of our income assistance clients also rely on federal programs, such as goods and services tax rebate and their child benefits, and as every one of you have filed taxes before, if you don't pay for your taxes, they claw back and the first clawbacks would be your federal benefits. We are just worried, as I am worried with Nunavummiut that that might happen.

At our level and at the officials' level there are ongoing federal-provincial-territorial meetings related to this to try to ensure that those impacted, those vulnerable Canadians won't be too impacted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, who will then be followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Mr. Keyootak.

Question 947 – 5(2): Tammaativvik Boarding Home Concerns

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

Mr. Speaker, my constituents continue to contact me with concerns regarding the Tammaativvik Boarding Home in the community of Iqaluit. I have raised concerns before and I appreciate that the minister has tried to address them with the boarding home contractor. However, the problems persist and something must be done.

Can the minister clarify how his department works with the contractor to ensure that staff at the boarding home can speak Inuktitut and are able to properly communicate with medical travel clients? It would be helpful if he would have discussions with the clients from communities such as Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our staff at the Department of Health are in regular communications and have formal quarterly meetings where they actually sit down and go over issues and concerns that are raised. I continue to stress that the best avenue for getting concerns out to be dealt with is through our Office of Patient Relations. They are very engaged with the whole medical travel process and they know who to talk to and how to direct people to find solutions.

I don't have the current Inuktitut-speaking staff list for the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, but I do know they have a number of staff on hand that are bilingual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very important that the staff at the boarding home are able to communicate with medical travel clients in their first language, especially when they need assistance in addressing a personal or urgent issue. In addition, it seems that the staff at Tammaativvik are often not aware of how to support clients, including those with specific needs or health issues.

Can the minister describe what type of training is required for the staff at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home under the terms of the contract with the service provider? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the member and other members have approached me as recently as today on concerns at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home, but I can say with all sincerity that the number of complaints that has gone down from that facility in the last few years is significant. There has been a lot of progress because of the staff training and security guard training.

It is challenging right now, especially under the restrictions that we have where the visiting is limited, we have been increasing the volume of people going through that boarding home. Instead of sending medical travellers outside the territory, we are providing more services here in Iqaluit. It is putting a strain on

the system and we are working with the contractor and with our medical travel staff to make sure that we are aligning the capacity with the demand better. I am going to say that that is putting a strain on the system, but I will say the number of complaints has gone down dramatically over the last few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see it the other way around. I have had concerns raised a lot more recently and the operations at Tammaativvik are getting worse on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that my colleagues and I have raised concerns about the operations of the Tammaativvik Boarding Home at every sitting of this Assembly. Concerns have also been raised regarding the lack of space, the food, security, and other issues. Those are the main concerns that I have heard.

I recognize that the Department of Health is not directly responsible for the boarding home operations. However, the department pays a contractor to deliver these services. Will the minister commit to reviewing the terms of the boarding home contract to ensure that the appropriate services are being delivered and report back to this House on what specific steps the contractor will be taking to address the concerns that have been raised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All I can go by right now is the type of complaints that are made to the Office of Patient Relations or to myself, which does get sent to the Office of Patient Relations and it's tracked on what the issues are. It might be easier for all involved if the member could maybe outline to me in correspondence what the concerns that are being brought to his attention so that I can inform my staff to make sure that those are brought up at the next quarterly meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, followed by the Member for Kugluktuk. Member Simailak.

Question 948 – 5(2): Liquor and Cannabis

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to all of my colleagues here and everyone back home in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, he tabled the 2018-19 *Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission* during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of November 6, 2019. The report indicates that “Our Let's Be Aware campaign remains active in promoting socially responsible messaging. With the addition of cannabis sales in 2018-19, the NULC increased the cap on the amount of money available to educate Nunavummiut about ways they can

consume our products responsibly if they choose to do so.”

Can the minister describe what types of information the commission is providing to the public concerning the physical and mental health risks associated with the consumption of cannabis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Hon. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. What we have been doing is we’ve got a task force that goes around to different communities. They speak to the alcohol education committees. They go into the schools and sometimes hold public meetings if there’s time and availability. A lot of that has obviously been hindered in the last six months with the COVID situation.

We do have some materials that are being developed to give people more guidance. There are quite a bit of resources out there, obviously, at mental health or at the health centre. There are resources available for addictions and counselling for people who have questions. Again, I don’t like to make excuses and this COVID situation has kind of taken over a lot of our resources and tasks, but we are continuing to move forward with those initiatives.

I’m also looking for kind of combining both my hats of health and finance to utilize some of the resources that Health is doing and Finance are doing to make sure that there’s not as much duplication

in the efforts so that we can make more effective use of our communications to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response there. I’m glad that they’re working on other things because life goes on and there are other issues that are not COVID-related, so I’m trying to make sure other things are not forgotten on the side by accident.

The 2018-19 *Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission* also indicates that the commission is “...expected to generate a profit for the public. At the end of each fiscal year the NULC transfers its profits to the GN’s consolidated revenue fund. The GN allocates this money to departments through its usual budget process. In this way, NULC profits contribute to public services and program delivery across the territory. In 2018-19 the NULC spent \$519,000 on social responsibility campaigns. This amounts to 11% of profits, a higher proportion than any province dedicates to social responsibility.” That is good to see.

Can the minister explain why the remainder of the profits from the sale of alcohol and cannabis are not specifically allocated towards substance abuse treatment programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had this question before and realistically it does. We spend much more on mental health and addictions than the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission generates as far as revenue. Having those revenues go into our consolidated revenue just allows us to provide more programming across the territory. As we increase revenue, there's more availability to be able to spend money on mental health, addictions, or other related expenditures, but we generate way less than what we spend, so it would just complicate the accounting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The *2018-19 Annual Report of the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission* includes some information about the community impacts of the beer and wine store that is located in Iqaluit. Can the minister clarify how he is working with the Minister of Health to evaluate the community impacts of the legalization of cannabis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say with all honesty that sometimes the Minister of Finance and

the Minister of Health don't get along very well.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, that's what I spoke to earlier, to make sure that we're not duplicating services or information, to make sure that we're maximizing the benefit of that \$519,000 that we spend in education and awareness. We're going to continue to keep developing that relationship. The messaging is a little complicated because, from the Department of Health, abstinence is the best and from the Department of Finance, responsible partaking is the message. It's sometimes a little hard to fit those pegs in together, but where we do have the commonalities, we are going to continue to work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak. Member Pedersen.

Question 949 – 5(2): Search and Rescue

Mr. Pedersen: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Good afternoon, everybody. Good afternoon to Kuglukturmiut.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by paying tribute to the many Nunavummiut who volunteer their time and take personal risks to help our communities with search and rescue. Their service saves lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the government's emergency management function, and I know that there are many hard-working and dedicated people working hard in that organization. However, I want to take this opportunity to raise concerns that have been expressed to me about the current response times in search and rescue situations. It is my understanding that there have been delays in the length of time that it takes headquarters to assign tasking numbers to local searches, which are required to initiate operations.

Would the minister be prepared to commit to reviewing the current process by which emergency management headquarters communicates with local search and rescue authorities, and getting back to me with his findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to give thanks to those people who give themselves to go out and search for people who are lost or not necessarily lost but not able to make it home on their own, and most of the time it's done in the harshest of conditions when the weather is not so cooperative.

Mr. Speaker, currently within the emergency measures office here, as soon as a community notifies our Emergency Measures Branch that there is a search happening and they need a number in order to begin to get equipment or fuel supplies to do the search, we enact that immediately as soon as we can.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes there is confusion where a search and rescue committee will begin a search without having contacted our office initially and that has happened on a couple of occasions. Once they realize that someone forgot to call, we try to rectify that as soon as possible, but we do work closely with them and we continue to strive to find better ways to improve the service because we don't want to deter those who are giving themselves to help their fellow man. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. As the minister is aware, there are occasions when privately-operated aircraft may be available near a community to assist with search and rescue operations. I am thinking particularly of aircraft at mining operations. Can the minister indicate what agreements are in place between his department and major mining operators in Nunavut regarding their ability to assist with search and rescue operations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. Thank you for that question. Mr. Speaker, just let me add to the reply to the first part of the question. My colleague stated earlier that there are two main types of searches. One of them is marine search and when it involves marine searches, then the Canadian Coast Guard deals with that situation and

that's where sometimes we've had issues that may have arose because the marine search is done through the Canadian Coast Guard, though our emergency measures office will give all the support they can when that is happening.

In terms of working with the mining sector, the exploration camps, and other people out there, maybe tourism camps and so on that are out there with their private airplanes or helicopters or aircraft, we don't have a written document to say that they will help us at these times, but the exploration camps out there, the mining sector, and the Coast Guard, if they happen to be in the region, depending on the kind of search that is happening, have been very helpful in providing air search services when they are able to. In those cases where they are not, we will work with the Canadian air search and rescue too, but in terms of the mining sector and exploration, they're more than happy to help us in searching individuals across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you again, minister, for your response. As the minister will recall, the 2017 annual report under the *Emergency Measures Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of November 7, 2018. This report contains important information on a number of matters, including search and rescue activities in Nunavut. Can the minister indicate when the 2018 and 2019 annual reports will be ready for tabling in the

Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a confirmed date or time of when I will be able to table those documents, but I would just like to add this, Mr. Speaker: to date our search and rescue workers have worked; we have done 130 searches to date. Last year our search and rescue teams worked in 246 searches across Nunavut. We're halfway through the season and there have been about 130 searches to date, both by air and by sea and by land, but as soon as I am able to table the details of that document, I would be more than happy at an appropriate time to share it with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Hudson Bay. Member Lightstone.

Question 950 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Students

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I expressed my concern that the pandemic is having a negative impact on the recent high school graduates as well as post-secondary students. In the response to my question, the Minister of Education indicated that Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students received 418

applications for the current fall semester, while the prior year average was between 680 and 750. Mr. Speaker, this represents roughly a 40 percent reduction.

I would like to pose similar questions to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. My first question is: how many applications have been received for the fall 2020 semester? Also, is this average or does it represent a significant change comparable to FANS 40 percent reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact globally. The colleges are affected. We can say that there is a decrease in the number of students attending college this year. Monday was the cut-off date. They were counting the numbers of students who were going to school this winter and students who are currently in school. Once we have that information, we can provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that the minister does not have these figures as I had previously requested this information through correspondence just a few weeks ago, so I anticipated that the minister would have this information on hand. Regardless, I do appreciate if the minister would be kind enough to

provide that information at a later date through a return to oral question.

Moving on to my next question, I would like to ask the minister if the number of applicants for the fall 2020 semester and explicitly those related to first-time students or students enrolled in the first year of a program, I would like to ask if the college has seen a reduction in the amount of new students in the fall 2020 semester and whether or not that is comparable to prior year averages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I alluded to my first response that Monday was the cut-off date and that my staff is compiling the reports on how many students have applied. Once we get the information, I will gladly share it with the member.

As for his question on how many students have applied, I can tell you that it will be a different year. We've had to, unfortunately, not do the first year intake of the very popular Nunavut Teacher Education Program and that was due to operational issues. Once we have those numbers, I will gladly share it with the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the onset of the pandemic towards the end of the

previous academic school year, the college had provided additional supports, such as online learning tools. My next question for the minister is: for the current academic year, what additional supports is the college providing students in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We worked hard to make sure our students have the proper equipment for this year's academic calendar year. However, with the online issues on Internet speed, it has been a real challenge. Mr. Speaker, just last week I was talking to somebody in Ottawa on TV and I can tell you that at least 30 percent of the information we were sharing together was really hard to decipher what was being said, but those are the challenges that we face. Until we have proper, high-speed Internet, then this will continue to be an issue, but we do work hard to make sure our students receive the best of care in terms of education. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 951 – 5(2): Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is aware, the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation is a critical issue for the community and hunters of Sanikiluaq.

On August 7, 2020 a letter co-signed by the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Quebec was sent to the chairpersons of the four wildlife management boards with jurisdiction over the subpopulation. The letter addressed a number of issues, including recommendations on harvest levels.

Mr. Speaker, one of the agenda items for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's recent meeting of September 2, 2020 was the southern Hudson polar bear total allowable harvest proposal submitted by the Government of Nunavut. Can the minister indicate when the board is expected to make a decision on the proposal and can he confirm if there has been any opposition to the proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; our department did submit to the four wildlife boards and the one we deal mostly with is the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We have not received a response yet and as this is an independent board and they have their own timetable, we just await their response to us on the recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm if any of the other three management boards, all of which are located in the province of Quebec, have responded to the letter that our government co-signed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, we have not received a response yet from any of the management boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's disappointing that these other organizations have not gotten back to our government yet. I hope the minister can follow up and hopefully get some feedback from these other jurisdictions.

In February of this year the Department of Environment held a consultation meeting with the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Organization on the southern Hudson Bay polar bear survey results, status report, and harvest risk assessment. I thank the minister's department for making the effort to travel to the community to hear directly from the hunters. The report from this meeting indicated that one of the issues that were raised by the hunters and

trappers organization was the low price of bear pelts. Can the minister describe what actions his department is taking to address this issue and what the current situation is on polar bear sales? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, the price of fur, including polar bear, is a supply and demand issue. For quite a few years now, the demand for polar bear hides has been low, so the price has been low.

What I can say is that the sales of polar bear hides are very low and have been low for a while, but the hides that are coming out of the member's community of Sanikiluaq are still in demand and they are one of the few polar bear hides where the demand is still high for product due to the time of season when they're hunted and the preparation that is done on the hide itself before it's taken to the fur auction. I would like to commend the people of Sanikiluaq for doing such a good job of that.

As for the prices, the sale, the polar bear hide prices are really low and we don't see any change in the near future on the demand of polar bear hides within this world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 952 – 5(2): Nunavut Mine Employees

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I will direct my questions to the Minister of (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I know that many people in Arviat and Whale Cove go work for the mines. They haven't been working for several months due to COVID-19, and it's quite understandable why the measures were put in place. It's because we don't want the coronavirus to enter Nunavut's communities.

I thank the minister for his letter explaining this. Agnico...I'll say this in English. (interpretation ends) "Agnico has over 300 affected employees." (interpretation) They're working in the Kivalliq and there are other employees at Baffinland and TMAC. They have been affected in the Kitikmeot and Baffin regions. I have been asked the most questions on this and I'm asking the minister the question that has been brought up constantly. When will mine workers in Nunavut return to work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do get those questions as well. They do want to work. With that being the case, with the involvement of our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Patterson, the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the Department of Economic Development,

and other stakeholders meet regularly to discuss how they can return to their workplace, and also right now, the planning group realized that we cannot put anything in place because the highest concern we have right now is for the safety of our people in Nunavut. They take great care in planning diligently to ensure that everyone is safe. I cannot tell you at this time when they will be returning to the mines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. For my constituents and those individuals who work at Agnico Eagle, they are given a wage and so I want to thank the mining company for providing that. They are able to maintain about 75 percent of their salary right now. I'm very happy about that and I appreciate that they are able to maintain a salary.

Minister, with the wage that they are able to maintain, have you been able to meet with Agnico Eagle, for example, regarding the time frame for when they might end with providing their salaries? Have you spoken to the company regarding a time frame for when the benefit might end? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They haven't discussed a time frame as to when they might end the benefit. They have simply stated they will continue to ensure their

wages are provided. They did not identify a time frame as to when they might end this for their employees at the mine. As of yet, Agnico Eagle Mines hasn't identified an actual date and neither has Baffinland. Those are the two I am aware of. They are working to continue paying their employees at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. We are currently experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic, and when we are going to review the mines and realize we have mines, Nunavummiut have a lot of concerns. I am very disgusted, actually, with the way that the mines in Nunavut are allowed to have workers when we have to ensure the highest levels of safety for people's well-being.

In my own thinking, we need to work harder so Nunavummiut are given more priority to ensure that local hires are taken care of first. Can the minister assure the House that if there is any agreement in place, they will ensure more employment by locals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree, and I would like to thank my colleagues. When we were seeking approval of our budgets, you made money available to enable us to create more mining jobs

within Nunavut. It is being drafted as we speak. They are working on it and we have discussions with them on how we can benefit Nunavummiut more and how more jobs can be held by Nunavummiut.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic is over, it would become so much easier. I wanted to state that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) No. 8. Returns to Written Questions. No. 9. Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. (interpretation) Petitions. (interpretation ends) No. 11. Responses to Petitions. (interpretation) Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. No. 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development, Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeeagok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 288 – 5(2): Nunavut's Hidden Homelessness Survey

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table Nunavut's Hidden Homelessness Survey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Tabled Document 289 – 5(2): Nunavut Fire Marshal’s Office 2018 Annual Report

Tabled Document 290 – 5(2): Nunavut Employee Benefits Services 2017 Annual Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents today. The first one is the Nunavut Fire Marshal’s Office 2018 Annual Report, and the second one is the Nunavut Employee Benefits Services Year-end March 2017. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. No. 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 083 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I give notice that on Friday, September 25, I will move the following motion:

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during this present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask for unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 16. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 083 – 5(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during this present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

Motions. Let us proceed. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 45, 46, and 47 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2) with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:26 and Committee resumed at 15:53*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 45, 46, and 47 and Tabled Document 65 – 5(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the three supplementary appropriation bills, starting with Bill 47, followed by Bills 45 and 46. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that we first deal with Bill 47?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2020-2021 – Consideration in Committee

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

Hon. George Hickes: With the committee's permission, yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, if you could introduce your witnesses, please.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy Minister of Finance, Jeff Chown; Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, Constance Hourie; Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Bill MacKay; and Deputy Minister of Family Services, Yvonne Niego. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Welcome to your officials. We left off yesterday, we were doing Bill 47 with the Department of Justice and we finished off on Corrections, and the second part of the page on page 7 is the Directorate. I will now ask members if there are any questions under Directorate for the Department of Justice. I see none. Justice. Total Department. \$2,290,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turning to page 8. Culture and Heritage. Special Warrants. Total Department. \$197,000. Are there any questions? If not, Culture and Heritage. Special Warrants. Total Department. \$197,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turning to page 9 of the bill. Education. Corporate Services. There is item 1 on page 9 which flows over into page 10. Are there any questions for the Department of Education? I see none. Department of Education. Total Department. \$12,862,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 11. Health. Special Warrants. Not Previously Authorized. Under Directorate, are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On this item here that is listed as “Nunavut Long-term Care Project,” I’m looking at the carryover substantiation sheet, it mentions phase 1 and phase 2. On page 2 of 4 under current status it says, “Reasons for the delay in the capital project...” it says, “...further planning needs to be conducted for Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk facilities. The second phase to the business case will be developed for 2020.” I’m trying to understand: is this carryover for that for the further planning needs or is this carryover specific to the Rankin Inlet facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health’s budget under this is for the planning of the Rankin Inlet facility. We do have some preplanning dollars with Community and Government Services looking at the Kitikmeot and the Qikiqtaaluk regions, so technically both. There has been some concern with the plan for the Rankin Inlet facility. There have been discussions at the national level that there could be some code changes coming for long-term care facilities, as we have learned some lessons over the last six months with long-term care facilities, so right now both. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If this money is going towards both phases, how much of this carryover is going towards the Rankin Inlet facility and how much is going towards the planning of the other facilities? I was under the impression that this money was specifically for the Rankin Inlet facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I confused the committee. The monies that are listed here are for the Rankin Inlet facility planning. The other planning dollars are out of Community and Government

Services in their preplanning envelope.
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee.
Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I
guess just a final clarification, so it says,
“Further planning needs to be conducted
for the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk
facilities.” Does that include developing
a strategy for long-term care in
Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.
Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. No, this is capital. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee.
Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. I’m expecting a plan that
is set up properly that would be geared
toward elders’ care facilities. This topic
is brought up constantly. It states in the
report that was done in 2015 and, if I
recall correctly, it states that Inuit culture
and traditional knowledge were not
included in the drafting of the report. It’s
still used as a foundational document
when it comes to elder care in Nunavut.
I personally expect to see another
strategy that is set up properly. That’s
what I’m expecting. It’s not a question;
it’s just a comment at this point, Mr.
Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for your
comments, Mr. Main. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman, for recognizing me. I’m just
curious because of COVID, a number of
projects have been delayed. On page 11,
Rankin Inlet dental care tenant
improvement, is that a building or is that
a house for \$837,000? Thank you, Mr.
Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie.
Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr.
Chairman. It’s actually just renovating
some existing space. There was a lease
of some space that was deemed
inadequate and, if I recall correctly,
they’re looking at renovating some space
to make it more up to code for providing
health procedures. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee.
There are no more questions. We are on
Health. Special Warrants. Not
Previously Authorized. Total
Department. \$13,133,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 12. The
Department of Environment. Special
Warrants. Are there any questions?
Seeing none, Environment. Total
Department. \$1,558,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 13.
Community and Government Services.
Item 1 continues onto page 14 and it
continues into Item 2, which continues
onto page 15. Are there any questions?
Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) CGS

is the department of infrastructure. It does a lot of work for different departments. I would like to thank the department for their letter dated September 22, where they provided additional information regarding GN capital carryovers. The information in this letter is useful.

I guess my first question is regarding one of the reasons for capital carryover that's highlighted is the disputes on construction projects. It mentions in the letter on page 2 that some disputes can take 12 to 24 to 36 months to resolve after construction. What major projects or capital projects are currently being held up by disputes? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail. Through you, Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Hourie could respond, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Unfortunately as well, I do not have that information with me. I can say generally there are four to eight disputes that are generally ongoing and I can get the member that information if you would like. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to supplement Ms. Hourie's response with the caveat of: where legally available to share. Some of these disputes may be under legal

proceedings and we would be very limited to what we could share, so I am sure Ms. Hourie and her staff will make sure that the appropriate information gets to the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I should apologize. I realize that there is a list in the letter on the second last page that says, "Active disputes on the following projects: Igloodik School, Kivalliq Oil Tank Replacement, Rankin Inlet Arena, Iqaluit and Pond Inlet Marine Infrastructure, Arviat Water Infrastructure, Cambridge Bay Runway Upgrades, and Gjoa Haven Tank Farm Project." When we look at the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet marine infrastructure, those are major projects. Without oversharing, what is the nature of these legal disputes? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if Ms. Hourie could respond, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. As it says within that same paragraph, many of those disputes are with some contractors relative to delays and compliance to contractual requirements from the contract provisions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. The contractors relative to delays and compliance to contractual requirements; does the Department of Community and Government Services anticipate any increase in legal disputes due to delays caused by the pandemic restrictions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, through you, if Ms. Hourie could respond, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. At this point we are not sure about that because we have done what we have done with regard to construction workers and going to the 25 communities and ensuring that they are comfortable with the number of construction projects that were going ahead, along with the construction workers coming to their communities. At this point we feel that we have done what we can to reduce the *force majeure* measures that we would be under otherwise. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am still on this same letter from CGS and it was very useful information. One of the things that are mentioned in terms of the capital carryovers and the department mentions a key performance indicator and the key performance indicator being the amount of carryovers relative to the

overall capital budget. It mentions in the letter that “We would like to get to about the 5 to 7 percent range, or \$50 million to \$70 million, in capital carryovers annually.” I think it is very admirable that the department has set targets to achieve those.

What other key performance indicators are being tracked by the department in terms of capital projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, through you, Ms. Hourie could respond, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. I believe that in past years and in fact last year that we provided to the members a couple of documents that would have tracked some of the questions that he’s talking about. One of those is the capital projects in construction. I’m not sure if the member remembers this, but it’s a big document with a table and it talks about both the capital projects in construction as well as the capital projects in design. Within there it talks about the community, the client department, funding sources, substantial completion date, approved project budget, project spent to date, contractor-approved change orders, required percentage of NNI, and current percentage of NNI. Those are just some of the things that we track. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Is local labour and Inuit labour a key performance indicator that's tracked by the department or does that fall to ED&T because they have the NNI Secretariat? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you. I believe it's tracked through the NNI component of the information that Ms. Hourie gave you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The reason I'm asking about local labour and Inuit labour being a key performance indicator is while we see the carryover amount coming down over the years, we want to see the local and Inuit labour amounts come up. I'm interested if there are government-wide targets when it comes to capital projects in terms of how much of an increase the government wants to see year after year to ensure that we're making progress in hiring more Inuit and employing more Nunavummiut as we do capital projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear this kind of a concern and the want to see increases in the Inuit labour pool and the increase in Inuit people hired during these contracts.

Mr. Chairman, our department has been working within our procurement department, working with other departments within the Government of Nunavut to establish criteria where when a contract is being put forward, we will work with Family Services, Economic Development, and in some cases the college and our procurement department to put into a contract such as, let's say, the healing facility contract or a school or something, to build in opportunities to train and hire Inuit to increase the number of Inuit working within that contract. We are working to establish it in the front of it and not after the contract is awarded, but to actually have it within the contractual framework. Our procurement department is working to make those improvements also, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For clarity, I wonder if the minister can clarify: are those specific measures tracked as key performance indicators within the department currently, Inuit labour and/or local labour? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are tracking those, the Inuit labour content in it, as much as we can. There are some areas when we are tracking this that you will see a spike in a contract where there is more Inuit labour content in it and during the

contract there might be times where there is less.

Just for an example, if it is time to put in electrical in the building, there are two electricians in town and they are both non-Inuit, they do the electrical part. In that section there might not be, but in the labour content when they are bringing in the materials and doing the actual construction or deconstruction, whatever it may be, and the Inuit content is high, it would be higher at that, but you have to take the average from start to the end. We track it that way. Our goal is to increase it from the start of the build to the end.

Those are the things we will be working to improve and increase through the work we are doing to improve the contractual obligations to our beneficiaries, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Given that I think we all agree that this is a key performance indicator for how our capital projects are proceeding, how the government's capital projects are, would the minister be able to get back to the committee at a later date with a summary or data that would give us an understanding of what the trend is in terms of Inuit and local labour?

Whether we are staying the same, whether it is going up, whether the long-term trend is down, that is the type of data that could be put into a written question, but I think that if the department could prepare it, it might be less time-consuming or easier for us to

digest. I am asking for a summary to help us understand the long-term trends, let's say, going back about 10 years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question and concern from my colleague on this very matter. I assure you it also is the same concern we have within our department and our procurement department. I appreciate their foresight and the staff there are working on improving this. It was a suggestion from them.

I know we will be tracking that to see if this new plan that we do have will bear fruit in that sense, so we will be tracking that. I cannot commit to a 10-year go back to see where the trend was, but I assure my colleague and my colleagues around the room that I will get back to my colleagues in terms of the trends, where they were in the last number of years, as far back as we can go back without making it so long that we cannot get back to you in time and moving forward from here.

I would really like to also see the trend once we work on the contract obligations and how we are going to deal with the training component of this. It will be interesting to see if that trend makes any difference, Mr. Chairman. I will be more than happy to share that information with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I am moving to the substantiation sheets. There is a solid waste upgrade project in Whale Cove, and going through the substantiation sheet on page 4, it says, “The cost of O&M for the new sites are expected to increase during the planning phase and an estimate of O&M costs will be completed. A business case to increase the funding to the municipalities will be completed and submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval.”

I just wanted to get a clarification on that as it pertains to solid waste facilities to be built in Arviat and Whale Cove, that this is something that is a component of building a new solid waste facility and that the hamlets will be adequately provided an O&M chunk of funding to operate these new facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if Ms. Hourie could respond to that, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie, please go ahead.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. In fact, just before I came over here today, we were having that conversation in the office with the staff and about the O&M and that that is and should be one of the items that we add to these substantiation sheets. In response to your question, the answer is yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. It is good that it is being considered.

Moving on, the project named “Emergency Water Treatment” mentions on the first page of the substantiation sheet, it says, “Last year this reverse osmosis water treatment plant was given to the City of Iqaluit as a contingency due to water constraints the city was facing.” I wonder if that can be clarified. Was it given to the city on a permanent basis or was it given to them on a “use it as a loaner” so to speak? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m starting to feel like a broken record. Through you, if Ms. Hourie could respond to that, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. It is a process we have to go through. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. If I am correct in the item you are asking about, with regard to the emergency water treatment plant, it is a one-of-a-kind unit that is being designed and built in Calgary this winter, and we will be able to deploy that unit to any community and we are still working out the detail on where that will go first. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. I am referring to the reverse osmosis water treatment plant that was previously purchased for a water emergency in Arviat in 2011. It is an existing asset that I'm trying to get clarity if it was given on a permanent basis to the City of Iqaluit or whether it was loaned to the City of Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was loaned to the City of Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This emergency water treatment item contains two different water treatment plants.

My last question is on the Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Project which is being asked for a carryover of \$4.99 million. On page 2 it says "Current Status" and it says "Reasons for the delay in the capital project" and it says "Project is not delayed." I'm a bit confused. If it is not delayed, why are we being asked to carry forward capital funding on this? That is my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am somewhat familiar with this, but through you, Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Hourie could fully respond.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Yes, this project is not delayed. Planning exercises are ongoing with consultant contracts bridging fiscal years. The carryover required is to ensure funding is provided into 2021 to allow for completion of consultant contracts and provisions for new contracts while finishing up the design phase of a project. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question on 14, arena upgrades. When I went to the community of Chesterfield Inlet, the youth of that community wanted to be able to use the arena in the summertime for sports. I haven't looked at the substantiation sheets, unfortunately. What kinds of upgrades are we looking at for the arena in Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if Ms. Hourie would have the full scope of work for that individual project, but maybe through you, Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Hourie would be able to respond to the member.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. With regard to Chesterfield Inlet, we're actually

developing that. The business case is complete and it's under review. Unfortunately I don't have that with me and I don't have the details, but it is to allow the arena to be operational year-round for sporting activities, such as hockey, skateboard, and indoor soccer. It's to allow the arena to get to that stage. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, do you have another question? Go ahead.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the bottom of the page, I'm being informed that the net effect on the project budget will be nil, as funding is being transferred from the prior year capital appropriation. I hope for this year, 2020, it will not be delayed. Looking at it, it seems like they had the capital appropriation in the budget, but the projects weren't done. Am I correct in that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically it could be a number of different reasons; partial completion. As Ms. Hourie mentioned, it's right in the planning phase right now, so it would depend upon the level of renovations that would be needed, whether that would turn into a one-year or multi-year project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Getting back to that portable water treatment plant slated to be

completed by October of this year, what are your plans for deploying that treatment plant? As we all know, every year, especially Baker Lake, we get boil water advisories in the springtime and also in the middle of the summer. I'm curious: what are your deployment plans for this mobile treatment plant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure it would be subject to change as emergencies like what happened in Iqaluit arise, but if there is a strategy behind it, I'm sure Ms. Hourie would be able to inform the committee, with your permission, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. That's something that we're discussing right now is a strategy with regard to that unit and again, it will be looking at current issues in communities, prioritizing, and then mobilizing the unit. As I said, I believe it's going to be built this winter. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like clarification, please. Who is "we"? Who are the stakeholders that will be making the decision of the deployment plan? Are there some MLAs, some ministers only, or is it only your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be the Government of Nunavut, based on operational requirements, where the priority of that equipment that would be needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Are there any more questions on this department? If not, we are on Community and Government Services. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions are for Item 3. I believe we just finished Item 2. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yes. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, or early evening, minister and your officials.

My questions are in relation to the isolation-related costs for the construction workers. I am very concerned with this request. Over the last few years the regular members have been encouraging the GN to increase local employment, and the information provided on this specific request highlights the dramatic increased capital costs associated with southern construction workers.

I've got quite a few questions on this topic, and I guess my first question would be: does the Government of Nunavut have reporting requirements for these construction companies which include travel and accommodation costs associated with southern workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of time that would be calculated in the bid that a contractor would put forward of how much travel and benefits and salaries and everything, it would be taken into consideration in their bid. I don't know how detailed it goes into that. I can't imagine it would get down into that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the transportation costs associated with southern construction workers are included in the bids, but I think this is a very concerning matter, and I would like to encourage the government to incorporate this into reporting requirements as projects proceed and continue. I think the GN should closely monitor the costs associated with travel and accommodations of southern construction workers. I will put in that request for now and move on to my next question after the minister provides a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood that as a comment and I am sure it is noted by officials. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for taking the comment and I will pick up on that issue at another date.

Moving on to my next question, on page 25 of the briefing materials, midway through the first paragraph, it indicates that CGS officials have had multiple meetings with the Labour Standards Board, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and owners of large construction companies to discuss strategies to extend rotation schedules. I was wondering if the minister would be able to expand on that. What exactly was discussed and what strategies were considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would have been at an official's level. Maybe Ms. Hourie would have some information regarding that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. We did have some conversations with labour standards as well as much negotiation with the contractors that we had, and I believe the 53 construction projects that were going on this summer and under labour standards, the regulations and standards in Nunavut require a maximum of 42 days, six weeks consecutive work days, which then requires a 14-day or two-week period of rest. I believe that most of the workers are up here in that rotational period or working towards that rotational period with the construction contracts. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: is CGS aware of the current rotation or southern worker turnaround time that construction companies are currently maintaining? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that Ms. Hourie could supplement my response, but it would be difficult to answer to. There would be different trades involved with capital projects; heating and air conditioning... Well, not a lot of air conditioning here, but the heating component of a building may be a two-week process. The electrical could be a three-week process. There would be different trade lengths of service needed by each, but I'm sure that Ms. Hourie would have a more detailed response than me.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. The minister is correct that it depends on each contractor and the unique labour program and tradespeople that they have and where they come from. Based on all of those factors, the contractor would determine what the specific rotational work would require. Do we track that? I don't believe that we track that. That is information, again, as part of the bigger, broader business plan and bid. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is: is the government aware of general practice of our construction companies with southern workers, and specifically, is it general practice for construction companies to fly up rotational workers at two-week intervals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending upon the trade, that is very possible. Even shorter periods could be possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll flag that topic to follow up at another date and I'll move on.

Also on page 25, CGS indicated that construction companies highlighted the challenges of recruiting and retaining some skilled trades workers if schedules were extended. I was wondering if the minister would be able to expand on that. What exactly did construction companies say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure Ms. Hourie has more direct access to this, but through one of my various hats, I do know one of the concerns that have been raised from construction companies is the isolation period that they have to go through to

get here. In addition, when they go home, some jurisdictions still require an isolation period as well. That's why, again, one of the examples of trying to extend the period of time that the worker is in the territory was a more amenable option by the contractor, but makes it very difficult for the workers themselves. As an example, if they were to come up and work for four weeks, depending upon where they lived and where they go back to, they could have spent an additional four weeks in isolation. That has been quite a deterrent for a lot of people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing on the topic, CGS' discussions with these construction companies in attempts to extend these schedules, was CGS made aware of the rotation time of each of these construction workers that were flown up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That level of detail wouldn't be provided. A contractor has a job to do either the full job or a component of a project; how they get it done is their business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope the minister sees what I'm trying to get at here. It is the cost of southern construction workers that are

inflating the costs of our capital projects. In the materials provided, there's an estimated nearly 2,000 construction workers that were passing through this isolation hub. The flights alone of these 2,000 construction workers are going to inflate our construction costs by at least \$2 million and that's flights alone. We also have accommodations and food as well, which is also further inflating the costs.

I'm really trying to emphasize the fact that this is the first that we have actually seen material on figures related to southern construction workers. I really think that this is a major concern, not just for me, but it really needs to be a major concern for the government as well. I would like to ask the government to place more emphasis on this area and encourage our construction companies to hire local as opposed to flying in. It might be more convenient for those construction companies, but it's not more convenient for this territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify the 2,000 number. Those could be the same person multiple times as well too, so it's not 2,000 people coming up necessarily. That being said, every project that we put out, we encourage local employment. We always encourage our contractors. That's one of the reasons why we have these minimum requirements based upon the community needs and availability, and we're going to continue to do so. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I wonder if I could just jump in with a question, if you don't mind, Mr. Lightstone. You talk about hiring local and as we have discussed before, there are many tradespeople across our territory. Has the government ever considered taking a pool of trades that are across our territory and encourage contractors to fly them in from other communities rather than from the south? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's one of the things that I have often been heard saying is that Inuit as a people were nomadic people in our history, and I have often been heard to say that the jobs now are animals, that we need to follow them around to provide for our family as well. I think it's very important that especially people in the trades be willing to mobilize and go to different communities for different projects. I'm not sure how advanced that level of recruitment is, but I know Minister Kusugak is listening very ardently and it looks like he wants to make a further response, so if Mr. Kusugak would be able to step in for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I think this legislature has been the most aggressive I have watched and seen and been a part of in terms of working towards increasing the employable Inuit, that they not just be the people who are bringing in the Gyproc and two by four at the start of a project, but they're the ones who are

putting it together, taping it, and working on the electrical.

As I said in my previous comments, this is something we are working with within our procurement department to include an increase and we are working with the college to see those things. I think, with the moving forward of the trades program that we do have in Nunavut, we're seeing a drastic increase in employable tradespeople. We have seen that in the housing project in Rankin Inlet where the college built a couple of houses and turned them over to the housing association.

I think that as we progress through this, we will see a decrease in tradespeople from the south. It can't happen overnight, as we all know, but the goal is that at some point we will have very employable Inuit and majority owned Inuit contractors and construction companies. I'm listening very closely to your comments, Mr. Lightstone, and I think everybody in this room is under the same path and want as yours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all the responses from the ministers. I'm glad that this is going to be taken seriously.

Moving on to my next question, it's a two-part question. On page 23 of the briefing material it indicates that as of August 3, 795 construction workers have travelled through the isolation hub. I was wondering if we would be able to receive an updated figure. In addition, I would like to know if CGS required

construction companies to identify if these southern workers were certified journeymen or if they were semi-skilled or unskilled labourers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You would think that I would have those numbers readily available at my fingertips with all the COVID questions. Unfortunately I don't have the updated...or yes, I do. Right now we're looking at total across to date is 1,222. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that, and I'm forgetting the second part of the question, if the member could remind me.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second part of my question, of those 1,222 southern construction workers, did CGS require construction companies to identify whether they were certified journeymen or if they were semi-skilled or unskilled labourers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to my knowledge. It's based upon the operational needs of the contract, so the construction company would be bringing up different levels at different phases of construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very unfortunate to hear. My next question was whether or not CGS required these construction companies to substantiate the need for these southern workers, for example, if a group was being sent to Iqaluit, whether or not there was a pool of individuals that could have performed those duties locally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hourie may have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Just with regard to the numbers of labourers and southern versus the territory labourers, we do have the NNI, which people are well aware of. With regard to the requirements in the NNI for any contractor, they range anywhere from 20 percent to 45 percent Inuit labour, which would mean our local labourers. As well, we do have contractors that check in with the municipalities to see if they are aware of any skilled labourers within their communities.

Further, when we get construction companies putting together their bids, they seek out all available trades labour required to complete the project and each contractor would pull together their own unique labour program. They would seek to maximize local and Nunavut labour given that labour is more cost effective here than it would be in the south. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Just to remind members, we are covering pretty well all three pages for Community and Government Services. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying on the Inuit employment, I'm wondering: are there unplanned site visits by government officials on these project sites to see how many positions are being filled by non-locals? I'm including non-Inuit, but that have lived here for 20 or 30 years that have made it their home, so they would have higher hiring percentage points as opposed to someone from the south. Are there any unplanned, unknown visits to these sites; unknown to the contractor? I'll let you answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are and they are sporadic, so they can't even time it. It's not like Friday afternoon they show up. They are sporadic visits that are done to the sites. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hicke. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Getting further into it, if it is known that they are hiring non-locals for positions that can be filled by locals, are there any penalty clauses and also, are they red-flagged for any future projects that could come up? Some companies will do a job in Iqaluit, they will do a job in Baker Lake, and they will do a job in Arctic Bay. Whichever tender they win, they will go for the job. Are there any red

flags to penalize them for those future projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Kusugak would like to respond to that, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever employment opportunities are created, as an example, if a tank farm is being built in Baker Lake, they predetermine the ideal number of Inuit to be employed, and it can start at 10 percent, 25 percent, 30 percent and upwards, which is set for that project. They set the percentage of Inuit to be hired to meet that goal and, if the contractor falls short of that stated goal, then they can be penalized by the amount they are short, including not awarding the contract to the company on the next project. There are consequences built into this process. We also want the companies who bid to already have Inuit percentages as, when they surpass the stated amount, it can benefit local Inuit and the contractor.

Yes, this is constantly reviewed during the life of the contract, from the beginning to the end of the project, where an eye is kept on the percentage of Inuit employed through inspections and such. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We are being asked to approve a total of \$25

million for these isolation hubs and the briefing material indicates that this will only get us until December 2020 and there might be further expenses on this. It is a significant ask.

Can we get a commitment from the department that there will be a summary of what employment categories these construction workers were? I'm not looking for every last little detail, but broken down into the categories of journey person, semi-skilled, and unskilled. Are we going to see that type of data for these isolation hubs, construction? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to start off that that would be a very labour-intensive project, for one. We're talking over a thousand workers right now with a variety of, you know, carpenters, electricians, steel workers, welders... . The list goes on and on.

As well, in terms with the NNI, it does show the Inuit content from that component, but I think it would be very difficult to get each category at this stage. There have already been 1,200 people who have gone through. To go back over that information now and solicit it from the contractors and from the isolation hubs, to be honest, would be a very labour-intensive and time-consuming endeavour. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If we can't get those numbers, then... Just a clarification, currently as these construction isolation hubs are being operated, there's no check on what qualifications or what the need is for these individuals to travel up to Nunavut to work; there's no justification needed on the part of the construction companies in terms of saying, "This person is a journey person. This is a journey person." In terms of justifying the cost and the need to bring them up, I'm trying to understand that oversight function within CGS. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There wouldn't be that level of interaction with any contractor. Their contract conditions are to build whatever facility to code within the parameters of the construction contract. There would be NNI components to it of labour, the material acquisition, and to maintain it within budget even more as a very important component, but that wouldn't be a contract condition that would normally be tracked.

I have stated a couple of times now and I'm not sure if the message is getting out there. We've had to react very quickly to a lot of these decisions we have made and it's getting the job done has taken a priority over tracking and data gathering. I realize it's an unfortunate reality, but the same people who would be tracking that data are the same people who are organizing all this stuff. We wouldn't have been able to make the progress we have done if we've had to track that

level of detail; maybe for the next pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I do appreciate or at least a little bit how difficult it must have been to establish these hubs, but at the same time this is incredibly expensive and if we're going to pay \$14,400 per individual for them to isolate, I would like to be able to go back to my constituents and say to them, "Well, we have been assured that these construction workers are needed and that's the tradespeople who were not available in-territory," but without that assurance going forward, it's a difficult pill for me to swallow personally, without any oversight or any requirement for these construction companies to justify bringing this many people up.

I trust the ministers that we have and I trust the government officials. I'm less trustworthy of the private sector and whether or not these are unskilled or semi-skilled labourers that are coming up here. This is an issue that we have been dancing around for years. Going forward, can CGS commit to at least summary data be collected from these construction isolation hubs? We have a number here, 2,000 workers until December. Starting in October to December, can we get a commitment that we will see some sort of reporting or summary as to what the qualifications of these construction workers were? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. The department officials are listening and they're going to see how difficult it would be to put that together.

I think a couple of things, as was talked about earlier on the difficulty of the contractors recruiting because of the isolation period, they're struggling to find their own labour force that they need to make up with what the gap is here. When we set up these parameters of Inuit labour content in a contract with whatever, pick community X, when those percentages are achieved, the contractor is maintaining their contract conditions. I know where we're going with this is where need to, where this became....

There are numerous things that COVID has taught us, but one of the things it has highlighted is what members are bringing up this week is it has really reinforced the lack of local labour and whether that's an availability issue or if it's a training issue, which the minister spoke to earlier with the trade school being developed, with more and more projects that we're getting more local employment in. That's where we're going to continue to make these advances.

It's an unfortunate reality right now that we need to get these projects built. The cost of not building or the cost of holding up construction far exceeds even what we're spending on these hubs. This isn't a blank cheque. There's no rubber-stamp process. If a contractor needs people to come up, I can't imagine

people volunteering too readily for a two-week isolation period before they come up to work for two, three, four, five, six, or eight weeks, and then potentially have to isolate when they go back home.

I know it's anecdotal that I'm just speaking from; there's no hard-based evidence because we haven't been tracking that. I did get a commitment from the deputy minister that they would take a look at how they would be able to track that going forward. If it's possible with the resources they have, I'm sure that they will take a look at it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) We have a commitment from the department to take a look at it. I'm just requesting a confirmation there. Can we get a commitment that we will see summary data in terms of the employment or educational qualifications, professional qualifications of these individuals who we are paying close to \$15,000 per person to stay in an isolation hub? Will we see that for the remainder of the year in recognition of what the minister mentioned that it will be hard to go back and collate that data? Going forward for the rest of the year, October, November, December, will we see that? Will the committee be provided that?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I love technology. As people are listening at the department, we're getting information from the department as we sit here and I was just informed that before the end of October, CGS will be able to provide an overview of the different trades these isolation workers are associated with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister and to the officials who are listening. Just to clarify that commitment, that will be going forward to the end of this fiscal year or to the end of the construction season, which is December, as listed in the briefing note. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main, please continue.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The briefing material on page 25 mentions multiple meetings with owners of the larger construction companies to discuss strategies to extend rotation schedules. Did options for recruiting within Nunavut from other communities or increasing local labour amounts in response to COVID...? Were those strategies or avenues discussed? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Ms. Hourie will respond, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. We did meet with a number of the bigger contractors to talk about, amongst other things, the rotational issues and Inuit labour percentages. As you have heard, we have different percentages for different contracts within each of the different communities. Yes, we did have those conversations and as well, contractors are encouraged to talk to municipalities about labourers that may be available within their communities as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The conversations were had. Were there any initiatives discussed in terms of increasing the local and Inuit labour content? For example, would we see recruiting efforts expanded beyond the individual communities to regional recruiting strategies? I'm trying to understand if anything different will be done in terms of the Nunavut-based labour force that we have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if Ms. Hourie

could complete the dialogue on this question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Again, contractors are highly motivated to hire local. It's more cost effective for them. As well, they do have percentages under the NNI that they are required to meet. I believe we have 53 or almost 60 contracts and many of those construction contracts have in fact exceeded the minimum amount that we require with regard to Inuit hires within those contracts. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hourie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question was: are there any initiatives or is there anything special that will be done with regard to the local labour component? This is something that's very special that's being put in place up to December for the southern labour hires, \$25 million for the southern labour. What special is going to be done for the Nunavut-based workforce?

I mean, the government has special warrants they can exercise. It's very impressive what has been done in a very short period of time. I would like to commend the department for pulling this together and I would love to see similar initiatives and similar benefits extended to the Nunavut-based workforce.

I'll return to my questions. Are there any plans for extraordinary measures similar to these construction isolation hubs or recruiting methods that are planned for

the Nunavut-based construction workforce? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there seems to be some confusion over who benefits from these isolation hubs and it's us. We have put in the two-week isolation period to keep our residents and ourselves safe and our families safe, and to be able to adhere to the contract conditions without having to pay enormous penalties that would be incurred through delays in some of these projects. I know that's not going where the member wanted me to go.

I'm not sure what it would even look like to be able to provide a benefit to local labour, like a Nunavut CERB type thing. I'm not sure where the member is going on that aspect of how we could provide some additional provision for local labourers. We have the Nunavut employee wage subsidy, but I doubt if any of those people are making less than \$25 an hour. Maybe the member could kind of lead me down his path. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess what I'm getting at is there's room to recruit and employ more Nunavummiut in the construction industry. This is additional money for the southern workforce that has been dedicated to making sure that the job gets done. Conceivably, at that cost of

\$14,000 per individual, the government could actually spend money on a Nunavut workforce specific initiative, let's say, aiming for \$10,000 per worker that's recruited from Arviat or that's recruited from Sanikiluaq or wherever and still save money.

I'm not imagining that the requirement for southern labour could be eliminated overnight, but I'm putting forth that there is some room for improvement in terms of local and Inuit labour content and if we're not going to do extraordinary things now, I don't know when we would do them. There's a potential cost savings. It could be a win-win. What that actually looks like at the end of the day would have to involve a lot of different parties, but I think the concept or the idea is pretty basic. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's comments, actually; it's kind of intriguing. I'm going to take it away and I'm sure Minister Kusugak is listening ardently as well as the whole cabinet. I'm going to take it as a comment or a takeaway and see where we go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking for clarification again about these people in isolation hubs. Are we paying them their regular pay to sit in the isolation hubs and, if we are, are we paying for their meals as well

and, if so, why? I they're already getting their regular pay, they could easily order through SkipTheDishes or Uber Eats. My other half was in Winnipeg and I ordered food for them through SkipTheDishes while I was in Baker Lake. They could do SkipTheDishes themselves when they're in isolation if they're getting their regular pay. I'm just looking for clarification on if we're paying for their meals as well while they're in isolation and why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope they brought you something back.

Mr. Chairman, it is in addition to and the reasoning why that would be similar to our own isolation hubs. If we have an employee on duty travel, they're being paid and we're still providing their meals for them. The salaries aren't paid directly to the person on the ground, so we don't know what their financial situation is. We're paying the contractor, who is in turn paying their employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I brought it up is because once they get here, we're no longer paying for their meals, if I'm correct. Why should we pay for their meals while they're in isolation? They're getting paid, so they've got money to buy their own meals. They get up here to do their job. They're on the job site now and they are buying their own meals, I assume; if not them, then the contractor.

Someone besides us should be paying for their meal is what I'm trying to get at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member kind of answered his own question. If the meals are provided by their employer, by the contractor, that expense would just be passed on to us anyway because it's our isolation that we're requiring them to follow. I hope that answers the member's question that he answered himself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. I realized I'm not supposed to ask this question. Have there been any issues related to alcohol consumption and/or security to date at the construction isolation hubs? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one hub I don't have any direct knowledge of. Through you, Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Hourie could respond.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. With regard to the construction hubs, they are alcohol-free. There is no liquor allowed within

the construction hubs at all. If workers are found with it, they are first of all asked not to do that and if they persist, they are removed from the hub at the cost of the construction company. I believe, and I don't want to mislead the Assembly, but there have been less than 15 people that have been removed from the hubs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. If there are no further questions, we are on Community and Government Services. Total Department. Special Warrants and Not Previously Authorized. \$89,642,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 16. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With regard to these two marine infrastructure projects that are listed under Not Previously Authorized, Pond Inlet, \$1.1 million, and Iqaluit, \$1.2 million, I wonder if we could get an explanation as to those. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just got my memory refreshed.

Mr. Chairman, when we do our initial capital carryover number, they're based on those numbers based at that time and then we do an actual adjustment with the actual work. Sometimes work gets done

from the point that we pick to the point that we have to physically report it with the deadline. There is sometimes some substantial completion has been done in the meantime, so it changes those numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickeys. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This isn't new money for these projects; it's just a change in the amount of the carryover that was initially included in the special warrant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With regard to the... . Maybe I'm on the wrong page. It is with regard to the Iqaluit International Airport item. Is this the correct time to ask those questions, Mr. Chairman? Yes, I think we are on page 16. Okay.

I was going through the substantiation sheet and on page 2 it says, "Reasons for delay" in the capital project, and the carryover request is \$592,000. It says, "The department intends to apply these funds to the renovation and repurposing of the old yellow terminal building in Iqaluit. Preplanning is still underway." I'm trying to understand: if preplanning is still underway, isn't that a separate capital project, separate from the Iqaluit

International Airport project?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I think it is time to bring Mr. Chown into the conversation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My recollection on this project is that when the Iqaluit International Airport project was approved, there was a recognition that something would need to happen with the old facility. There was a certain component built into the budget of that major project to help identify how the facility would be repurposed. The actual funds when that is decided would become a grander project that would require additional appropriations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Chown. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the same box there it says that the \$592,000 is associated with a rebate earned in the previous year. The rebate has been retained under this project and the rebate didn't go into general revenues within the government; maybe just a clarification. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is asking some good questions. I see Mr. Chown's wheels spinning already. Through you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chown can respond to the member.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately the minister is correct; the wheels are spinning and I'm trying to remember. I was a member of the committee that dealt with this and it has been quite a while ago, but I can't remember the exact details at this time.

At the time that this contract was awarded, there was a rebate component built into the project and I can't remember now what the rebate was for. There was an annual rebate, I believe, that comes back and essentially reduces... . We record an expense on the front end based on actual expenditures and then when the rebate comes back, it gets credited back to the project, so reducing the expenditures in the project and creating more room back within the budget. I can't recall at this time what that rebate relates to. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Chown. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Maybe if we could get a commitment that this will be clarified in terms of why it is being retained within this funding envelope and then that would give me assurances that it will be explained to the committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification again, all these projects you're asking for extra money for, all this extra money requested, are they all needs-based or some things for aesthetic reasons that "Oh, look, it would look much nicer if we had this here" type of thing? If I can use the example of the airport here, it looks very nice, but it's very expensive. I'm just wondering if any of these projects are all need-based, this extra money being requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's all to maintain the scope of work that was contracted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the scope of work could be anything. I mean, there could be aesthetics like the Iqaluit airport here. Do you know off hand if any of these extra million... ? \$1.2 million is a lot of extra money to make it look nicer type of thing. That's what I want to get this government away from so that we can use these funds elsewhere that, in my opinion, could be used better. If I can get some sort of extra clarification, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For sure. When a project goes to tender, the agreed-upon design and everything is all agreed upon then. The only time it would be a change or a change order would be an operational thing. We wouldn't be doing a change order on a building design partway through to make it look nicer. There are occasions where I have seen tenders come back where the lower bid was the nicer looking building. There are occasions where the aesthetics work to our benefit in some cases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Any more questions on Economic Development and Transportation? If not, then...oh, Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a quick question on page 16, Iqaluit International Airport, and it was my colleague that brought it forward, improvements. The Iqaluit International Airport is new. Why does it need improvements today to the tune of \$502,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the exact details of the scope of work, but there have been a number of changes in the requirements of the facility. There has been a shop opened up. There was the merger of Canadian North and First Air where the counters changed. There was a rental car facility brought in. I think there were some changes to the restaurant area as well too. A number of

different things would be like leasehold improvements basically and even just the title of the original project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Towntongie, you're done? Okay. Thank you. We are on Economic Development and Transportation. Special Warrants and Not Previously Authorized. Transportation. Total Department. \$18,109,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 17. Family Services. Special Warrants and Not Previously Authorized. Are there any questions? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff.

The issue of homelessness is a very serious thing in many communities, especially smaller communities. I know that the acting minister did table a report this afternoon, and I am looking forward to looking at it and hopefully it will do something for our communities, but it is a very serious thing. There was a news release back in June, on June 5, 2020, where the Prime Minister had recently mentioned funds to possibly renovate some shelters.

We are talking about a shortfall for this project of \$336,000. My question is, when the closure of the Saint Michael's Crisis Centre in Cambridge Bay was announced, it was suggested that if some of the federal money announced by Prime Minister Trudeau was put towards shelters and transitional housing for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, it might have helped pay for the renovations of the

building. What efforts were made to access federal funding for this project and were any funds made available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of that. Through you, Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Niego would be able to respond to the member's question.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. I think that was a two-part question.

What attempts were made to the federal government? There was an announcement. The announcement involved all three territories and two shelters being built. I believe there are still negotiations happening. We were not in full agreement with the way that money was coming to the territories between Family Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Further attempts are ongoing to ensure that Nunavut receives better access to capital dollars for shelters.

The other part of the question, I believe, was in regard to the \$336,000 specifically and how that fit. Unfortunately with the federal dollars we are at the mercy of the federal government and so this \$336,000 was not a part of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our government is always saying there is a lack of suitable buildings within Nunavut, and as a group of regular MLAs we are always saying there are buildings available which are not being used. For example, with the Pangnirtung MLA, she said there are a lot of staff housing units that have never been used and they can be transformed into shelters. As well, I have been mentioning there are buildings over at my community that can be made into shelters, but there is always an excuse that there are no buildings available.

My question to that is the Department of Family Services has indicated that capital funding is not available to repurpose buildings. There are buildings all over Nunavut, there are buildings that can be repurposed and establish shelters in Nunavut communities, but what process was followed to access capital funding for that Cambridge Bay family violence centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would have been requested to get it entered into the capital plan, brought to the FMB as part of the capital plan, and then it got approved there out of Government of Nunavut dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community representatives have all asked about repurposing surplus buildings. There are buildings that are not being used, so maybe they should be

considered surplus. They have never been used, like the one in Pond Inlet. The buildings are not being used for over ten years. That's what I'm hearing. There is staff housing not being used. Community representatives have always been asking for assistance to renovate some type of buildings like that. We need homes for the homeless. It's increasing. We have been trying to ask for help from this government to get buildings started, especially in the smaller communities.

Besides that, my question in that area, you say the Cambridge Bay youth group home is to be repurposed into a shelter for women and children. What Kitikmeot-based services will be available for youth who need residential care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: The member is testing my memory banks. There was a renovation that was going on at the group home. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to get back to the member on that. There is a movement from the group home that was there. It was long overdue for renovations. It was closed down. They were moved to the children's group home while those renovations are ongoing, and then I believe they were going to go back and the children's group home is supposed to reopen, but I will have to confirm that. I'm just going by memory on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: I think I just have one more question. The Department of Family Services has indicated that it provides contribution funding to societies or hamlets to establish or operate shelters and that capital funding is not available for this purpose.

For people in the smaller communities, it's really hard to start a society for something like this. It's so much easier if the hamlet can be asked to do what we are asking them to do, to look after the homeless people. In smaller communities, like everybody else knows, it's really hard to start one like that for that purpose. Maybe the hamlet can look after the program.

Will the government be bringing forward any more capital funding requests to renovate surplus government buildings in other and smaller communities in order to provide safe and comfortable shelter space for those who really need it? We need shelters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify the earlier comment, it was the mental health facility in Cambridge Bay that I was speaking about that needed the renovations.

I would have to defer to Ms. Niego if there were any business cases even being explored. I know they do have some transitional housing projects that they're looking at right now, but as far as shelters across the territory, to be honest, it would probably be best to have written correspondence with the Minister of

Family Services so they could respond properly to that. It's not part of this capital process. I think it would probably be best served via written correspondence with the Minister of Family Services and then they would be able to respond to you directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickey. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Just to make sure that you understand that we do need shelters all across Nunavut, especially the smaller communities, and you do know that. I'm asking: make it happen and look after our people. That is just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I echo my colleague's comments. I think that the need for shelters is unfortunate, but it is clearer than ever.

On the case management system, in the capital substantiation sheet, it's a carryover sheet; I guess this project has been a bit of a problem child from a capital planning perspective anyway. I shouldn't use that term, especially this, but it stems back to an OAG report in 2014, I believe. Here we are in 2020 and there have been numerous delays and the carryover request here is \$2.04 million and there are a bunch of different reasons cited in terms of what has led to these delays. When is the anticipated completion date of this case system making it operational? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a cursory level of understanding of this issue, so maybe if Ms. Niego would be able to respond to you, through you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The update on, I believe you called it CMS, case management system, is that not very long ago in the last few weeks our contract with the initial vendor has been terminated, so now we are aiming to start with a new vendor.

We still have ongoing management of the data migration. One of the initial items of the whole project was to go back to the start of the Department of Family Services and input all of the case files from that and it has been very time-consuming.

There are a number of issues with this project. For the timing of it all, it depends on how quickly we can move with a second vendor, but my answer would be as soon as possible. The more that this is delayed the more there are different types of files being kept along the way, so my goal is to get it as soon as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With the termination of the existing or the previous contract and going to a new

vendor, the total cost incurred as of today is \$3.45 million according to the substantiation sheet. Is that \$3.45 million, that amount of work or whatever it is, software, maybe equipment, now lost as a result of this contract termination or is the property of the government, whatever has been designed or programmed or purchased? I'm just trying to get a sense of whether that \$3.45 million is still on the government's books, if that is clear. I can clarify it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, Mr. Chairman, if Ms. Niego would be able to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Niego.

Ms. Niego (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The majority of that is expended already. Fortunately we have ownership of the data and that has been secured. There is likely a small residual amount that perhaps we have lost in especially man-hours and time spent of staff trying to work with this vendor on the frontlines as well and then now there will be a redesign of the system, but for the most part, we have protected as much as possible ownership of the system data. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Niego. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)

No further questions. I just look forward to when this management system is in place. From what I understand, it would be very beneficial to our social service employees, as well as contribute to protecting children. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your comment. I have no more names on my list for questions. We are on page 17. Family Services. Special Warrants and Not Previously Authorized for Corporate Management. Total Department. \$3,964,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll ask members to go to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 1, 2020-2021. Schedule 1. I would like to remind members that this amount will reflect the motion that was passed yesterday. Capital Appropriation. \$146,026,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded with the budgetary detail that supports Bill 47?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to order that Bill 47 be reprinted to reflect the deletion?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. It has been so ordered and when reprinted, Bill 47 is returned to the Committee of the Whole, the committee will commence with the clause-by-clause review of the bill.

Minister Hickes, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. George Hickes: Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the questions and we all understand that there are challenges in front of us and we continue to work to overcome them.

I will just close off saying that I am disappointed that that money was removed from this bill. It's going to put an extraordinary challenge on the Department of Justice to maintain the level of services that that building was intended to do. Without \$4 million, they're going to have to cut some pretty serious corners over the next few years, and I sincerely hope that they're able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I appreciate you and your staff for being here to answer the questions that members have posed. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I would like to move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Thank you. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm not trying to wait for six o'clock. Thank you.

Item 19. (interpretation ends)
 Consideration in Committee of the Whole... (interpretation) I'm sorry.
 Item 20. (interpretation ends)

Report of the Committee of the Whole.
 Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 47 and would like to report progress and that furthermore, your committee has ordered that Bill 47 be reprinted prior to the clause-by-clause review of the bill. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Member Kusugak, I believe, was first.

>> *Laughter*

The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets in the Nanuq Boardroom tomorrow at nine o'clock.

Orders of the Day for September 24:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 45
 - Bill 46
 - Bill 47
 - Tabled Document 65 – 5(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:54*

Thank you.

