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Speaker: The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Quttiktuq)

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of Human Resources*

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(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

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(Tununiq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, May 28, 2021**

Members Present:

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

>>House commenced at 14:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)

(interpretation): Before we proceed, let us pray.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Nunavummiut, those who are following the proceedings, as your MLAs will be working very hard again today. Welcome all.

Let's proceed. Ministers' Statements.
Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 625 – 5(2):
Smoke-free Places**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost said "good morning" to you, as we usually meet in the morning on Fridays. Good day, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 31, communities across Nunavut will join our partners around the world in celebrating World No Tobacco Day. The purpose of this day is to highlight the harms and other risks associated with tobacco use and to advocate for policies to reduce tobacco consumption. In December 2020 the World Health Organization launched a year-long global campaign: "Commit to Quit." This campaign aims to support 100 million people worldwide in their attempt to give up tobacco through various initiatives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, amendments to the *Tobacco Control and Smoke-Free Places Act* came into effect in 2018 and introduced two new smoking laws: smoke-free places and buffer zones. Smoke-free places include health facilities, schools, playgrounds, daycares, arenas, sports fields, or at public events. This means people cannot smoke, vape, or use cannabis on the grounds of these places. All other public buildings and workplaces, like stores and office buildings, have buffer zones. This means it is illegal to smoke, vape, or use cannabis within nine metres of any entrance to the building. Among other things, these changes help protect Nunavummiut from second-hand smoke.

I remember playing in gymnasiums and you couldn't see your teammates because the audience, the fans were smoking in the gymnasiums.

Mr. Speaker, to promote Nunavut's smoke-free places and buffer zones and ensure Nunavummiut are informed, the Department of Health has developed a mass media campaign. This Smoke-Free Places Campaign will be launched on

Monday, May 31, World No Tobacco Day, and run for one year. The campaign includes posters for public buildings, information cards, videos for the NU Quits website, social media posts, and community radio public service announcements. Local media will also be engaged across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, community health representatives across the territory have been provided with tool kits to help them speak to Nunavummiut about smoke-free places and buffer zones. Similar tool kits have also been prepared for schools and health centres. As always, community health representatives are available to support community members in their effort to quit tobacco.

It is up to all of us to be leaders in our communities by following the law and making sure others are too. Working together, we can protect Nunavummiut from second-hand smoke. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 626 – 5(2): The Pathfinder Agreement

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

Mr. Speaker, as members will recall, through the Tripartite Partnership Table on Language and Education, the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the

Government of Canada secured federal funding to support Inuktitut learning and education. Dubbed the Pathfinder Agreement, it was guided by the principles of Aajiiqatigiingniq and Piliriqatigiinniq and secured \$42 million for Nunavut. \$34.7 million has been dedicated to the revision and expansion of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. That's great news.

Mr. Speaker, this funding is an investment touching on all aspects of the program. Most notably, this investment allows the college to action the Uqariuqsatittijit Initiative, rooting this program in Inuktitut and Inuit culture and supported by curriculum, resources, and evaluation tools that achieve this goal. This investment also allows the college to build management oversight, administrative and student supports to ensure all parts of the program are working in unison. Finally, this investment ensures the college will create and maintain a stronger online presence, representing a significant modernization of the program.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker and members, the college continues to engage with community district education authorities to confirm program deliveries in their community. I am happy to confirm that starting in September 2021, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program will be offered in Igloolik and Nauyasat as part of this new funding. An additional two communities are being finalized as we speak, and further announcements will be made once confirmed. The college intends to map out program locations to 2023 and is also working with the Department of Education to identify which

communities are prepared to benefit from a pool of qualified teachers.

In closing, I am proud to confirm that Nunavut Arctic College has also secured an additional \$12,295,000 from the Nunavut Implementation Panel to support this work. I would like to recognize all members of the tripartite table and Nunavut Implementation Panel for their support. Thank you.

>>Applause

Not only will this funding increase the numbers of proficient Inuktitut-speaking Inuit educators in Nunavut, thereby supporting our territory's bilingual education system, but it will also show that the *Turaaqtavut* priorities of Inuunivut and Katujjiqatigiinnivut is a vision for Nunavut that all parties hold. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 627 – 5(2): QEC
Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier
Scholarship Applications**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon.

Uqaqtii, I am pleased to announce that for the 15th year in a row, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is offering their annual \$5,000 scholarship to a promising Nunavut student enrolled in post-secondary education. This scholarship is

in memory of Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier, an outstanding role model and respected government leader who acted as a key contributor in establishing the utility now known as the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Five thousand dollars will be awarded to a deserving student based on their leadership qualities, career goals, and academic achievements. Commitment to volunteer services and contributions to their community will also be strong considerations in choosing the recipient.

Students of all ages and from all communities are encouraged to apply for the scholarship by June 30, 2021.

Application forms and further information can be found on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's website or by contacting the corporation's customer care division.

Mr. Speaker, students who are determined to complete their studies and pursue their goals should be admired. Each year the quantity and quality of applicants has increased, not only in academic achievements but in their sense of community. This gives me great confidence in our youth as future leaders of our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

**Minister's Statement 628 – 5(2):
Homelessness Support and
Initiatives during COVID-19**

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) My wink today is for my department. We all know the challenges of COVID and I appreciate the staff because some are home with families and managed to help me prepare for this session. (interpretation) Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic affects all of us, but it particularly affects the most vulnerable people, including homeless Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) It is hard to isolate and follow restrictions when you do not have a safe place to do so. Unfortunately the Iqaluit low-barrier shelter recently had to temporarily close due to the spread of COVID-19 amongst staff and clients, resulting in clients being displaced.

Uqaqtitsijii, through hard work, our government was able to quickly respond and open a temporary isolation hub in Iqaluit. Many partners and stakeholders came together to find a solution to a quickly evolving situation in ensuring individuals were able to be isolated safely.

Uqaqtitsijii, I am pleased to say that the Iqaluit low-barrier shelter has reopened for regular business. I would like to thank all the volunteers, staff and relief staff that work tirelessly to provide shelter, programs, services, and food security for our most vulnerable population.

(interpretation) I applaud you and encourage all Nunavummiut listening to consider volunteering in shelters or local food banks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 892 – 5(2): Clyde
River Fishing Derby**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to those who are following the proceedings in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, as well as my colleagues. I rise at this time to voice my pride.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, fishing derbies are being held across Nunavut in many communities. My other constituency community of Clyde River also recently held a fishing derby. It was held following the public health guidelines for the pandemic regarding social distancing and keeping the numbers low, and I applaud the people of Clyde River for their diligence.

Additionally, Inuit harvesting practices were undertaken with the fish caught given they do not practise catch and release but rather for subsistence. Further, it provides much-needed protein for Inuit who may not have the opportunity to go fishing or to get fish, so it benefits more than just the participants. The fish caught provide a tangible benefit to the residents as well.

Further, the winning fishers received nice sums of money, as some prizes are in the thousands of dollars, which most Inuit would never acquire without these derbies, so the winners get financial benefits and local bragging rights in the communities. Not just one winner gets prizes because they are generally divided into categories. This was also the case in Clyde River where many participants benefited, and this included a category for children fishers and they also won prizes that they otherwise would never imagine getting.

I really appreciate the organizers who provided cash prizes along with various prizes for the categories. Without naming any of the people, I would like to applaud Clyde River for hosting the fishing derby as many people won prizes, but I share this with my colleagues to celebrate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sure they had good feasts afterwards. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 893 – 5(2):
Encouraging Nunavummiut to Get
Vaccinated against COVID-19**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, as well as those who are watching the proceedings in Whale Cove and Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to make my statement about the need to get vaccinated to prevent the spread of COVID. The Moderna vaccine is said to

be quite effective and I applaud this medication as well as our health professionals who provide the vaccination shots within Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we are given the option of whether or not to get the vaccination shot. However, we have to remember that our chosen vaccine may not have arrived into all of our communities yet. In looking at the figures for the different communities in Nunavut of residents who have been vaccinated, it stands at 36 percent at the lowest and 93 percent at the highest.

With the verbal support of our government leaders and the Minister of Health, along with the chief medical health officer, we have urged the people of Nunavut to get vaccinated by providing clear and succinct information regarding the vaccines, and based on the information I have, the problem is not the lack of doses of the vaccine. It seems that we have an ample supply of the medicine available, but then again, there are quite a large number of people in Nunavut who are not vaccinated for whatever reason. It's hard to understand why they are not getting vaccinated. Usually when I talk to those individuals, I ask them why they do not want to get vaccinated and it's quite hard to try to influence them to get vaccinated.

I think that in other provinces and territories in Canada, their governments provided prizes for people who are being vaccinated. Prizes were provided in the hamlets of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I have run out of time, so I would appreciate it if my colleagues would allow me to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking 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. Thank you, colleagues.

The hamlets of Arviat and Whale Cove set up prize money and it helped increase the number of people who got vaccinated in both of these two communities. I am bringing this up because I think it would increase the numbers of people getting vaccinated. I think we should provide some sort of prize for the people who take the time to get vaccinated.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Premier in regard to the COVID vaccine for people in Nunavut, which is integral to our fight against the virus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 894 – 5(2):
Recognition of Baker Lake Youth
Athletic Association**

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe it is very important that we highlight any group of people that volunteer so much of their personal time, and today I would like to recognize the Baker Lake Youth Athletic Association. They are a very organized group of people that coach and fundraise for youth sports in Baker Lake and they also take the kids out for tournaments. I

would like to mention their names and they are, for the board members:

- Olivia Ullyot, Executive Director and Coach
- Kim Walton, Director of Player Development and Coach
- Craig Kelba, Director of Youth Relations and Coach
- Kerby Corcoran, Director of Finance
- Emma Quinangnaq, Director of Fundraising and Coach.
(interpretation) Emma Iviuq is her name. She is known as Iviuq.
- (interpretation ends) Dave Bevarrt, Director of Player Development
- Nathaniel Tapatai, Director of Administration and Coach
- Oonaq Noah, Member at Large

Mr. Speaker, there are also many other volunteers, contributing community members as coaches and volunteers, and they are:

- Hilu Tagoona
- Yousuf Birama
- Jon Turner
- Carla Kaayak
- April Aupaluktuq
- Justine Killulark
- Bence Csaba
- Leah Maxwell
- Morteza Beepanah
- Rachel Tagoona-Tapatai

The Baker Lake Youth Athletic Association is a community group of volunteers who promote youth health and wellness through organized sport. They have been active in the community for the last 19 years.

All these volunteers have and continue to spend countless hours working with

the youth, week in and week out, evenings and weekends, and it is very much appreciated by myself and the rest of my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 895 – 5(2):
Congratulations to the 2021
Nasivvik High School Graduates**

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is regarding the high school graduates from my community. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am very proud today to congratulate the 2021 graduates of Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, this past school year has proven to be difficult and unlike any other. Despite the challenges the students have faced, they have proven their hard work and dedication. I would like to congratulate:

- Evie Nattuk
- Ethan Quaraq
- Isiah Peterloosie
- Jefferson Killiktee
- Josie Singoorie
- Marie Saunders
- Nadia Ootoovak
- Rebecca Erkloo
- Siobhan Aglak
- Zoe Elverum

Mr. Speaker, this success should also be shared with families, teachers, and community members for their encouragement and support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me today in congratulating Nasivvik's graduating class. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of the achievements of these students. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 896 – 5(2):
Public Housing Construction**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a few comments today about the shortage of housing in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from the beginning since I became MLA in 2016 about the shortage of housing. Mr. Speaker, I think that we are going to have a severe shortage of housing for quite a while yet. Mr. Speaker, as people of Nunavut, we are well aware of the problem and we need an increase in the number of units being built in our communities. We have to keep up with the growing population in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in our community and because of the shortage of housing, there are nuclear families living under one roof, and it has been the case every single year for many years now. Mr. Speaker, since we are well aware of the problem, we know how many houses need to be built in our communities. Mr. Speaker, we would like to hear the housing organizations calling up the members and saying that there is housing available for you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

**Member's Statement 897 – 5(2): 2021
High School Graduates of
Taloyoak**

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, including all Nunavummiut, and to the people of Gjoa Haven who are watching the proceedings, I say "good day" to you.

I intend to make my statement around the issue of education. I wish to acknowledge the students who graduated from grade 12. First of all, I want to thank and recognize all parents who were passionate about their children's education, thereby awakening them every morning to prepare for that day's schooling lessons. I believe we all share this ideal that once our students graduate, they are working towards becoming our future leaders.

I will now state the names of all graduating students. (interpretation ends) Graduating students of 2021 Gjoa Haven high school:

- Trinton Ruben
- Jade Kamookak
- Sheridan Kamookak
- Charlene Porter
- Emily Tungilik
- Taylor Eyegetok
- Byron Rudolph
- Bailey Rudolph
- Sebastian Poodlat

- Jimmy Rasch
- Phillip Nimiqtaqtuq
- William Aglukkaq
- Waylon Nahalolik

Congratulations to all the grade 12 students from this high school in Gjoa Haven. A message from the principal, the official graduation ceremony is being planned for August. All students will receive a computer. The KIA sponsored this contribution; a big "thank you" to the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. And she says, "I am extremely proud of all the hard work that students and staff have put forward."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank all of my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) I'm just reading a comment from the principal. "They have all adapted to meet the changing needs of our educational path based on the pandemic. Their success speaks to their strength of character and how they have modelled, practised, and promoted *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*." (interpretation) This is the message stemming from our principal to the graduates of grade 12 in this school year, and I am very appreciative of their successful completion.

(interpretation ends) I will ask all Members of the House in joining me in congratulating the graduates of Gjoa Haven high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Member's Statement 898 – 5(2):
Successful Fishing Derby in Arviat**

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

Just prior to my statement, I would like to say that my younger daughter, June Savikataaq, will be celebrating her birthday soon, so (interpretation ends) happy birthday, June Savikataaq, (interpretation) my dear daughter.

I also want to celebrate along with the people of Arviat for their successful fishing derby where they held competitions for lake trout, and then another derby concentrating on sculpins and cod. I congratulate all of the participants who won. I know it is a wonderful event. I was unable to attend the derby. Nonetheless, I am so happy that everyone loved it and this event in Arviat was well attended happily.

I wish to thank the organizers of the fishing derby. The residents of Arviat enjoyed the different fishing events, such as catching the heaviest lake trout, and I know that magical feeling when you pull out a whopper! I share in your happiness and I thank everyone.

To my daughter, June Savikataaq, I say happy birthday to you again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

**Member's Statement 899 – 5(2):
Recognition of Qapik Attagutsiak
2021 Lifetime Achievement**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my constituents of the High Arctic, I want to voice our pride in our eldest resident of my constituency and to publicly acknowledge her today.

On May 20 this recognition was announced under the Indspire aboriginal organization awards for her lifetime achievements, which is to be televised in 2021 on June 21 on both CBC and APTN during an award ceremony that will recognize aboriginal people across our country.

I have always felt rightly proud of Qapik Attagutsiak, as she began learning skills when she was 10 years old and has continued to teach and practise her culture and language. She has sewn an incredible number of garments. She has also spoken of times when hunters arrived home from hunting, they had to repair and make new clothing before the next hunting trip. She has never stopped working on traditional clothing, and to this day she is still sewing mittens that are in high demand. That is so incredible.

Further, she has provided much information and knowledge on the subject of midwifery, and even at the time when it was first discussed in Ottawa, she was one of the Inuit experts who provided traditional advice and knowledge.

Furthermore, she also contributed to Parks Canada and was recently recognized by the Canadian Armed Forces for her vigilance as she started providing help during WWII. She was properly recognized.

At this time I am hoping and expecting that she is listening to these proceedings as I voice my pride in her accomplishments and I thank her profusely because today she still provides much-needed assistance locally and to those of us Inuit in the younger generations. With that, I want to voice my pride in her.

Please ensure you watch her award ceremony on television when she is being recognized on National Aboriginal Day, June 21. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of her. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1301 – 5(2): Update on Renovations to Elder Designated Housing

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

I have previously expressed my concerns that elder homes in the community are not set up properly for people with disabilities and elders. They go through too much difficulty in their homes and people have been very concerned about that. I was also involved and shared the same concern as the Member for Pangnirtung that some of the stairs are too high and they are simply not adequate. They should be fixed within our communities. They are supposed to be for people with disabilities and elders, but the units are too difficult to live in, especially the entry stairs because they are so long and high. They create additional hardships for people with disabilities because of the way they were built.

Mr. Speaker, last year I asked questions about my other constituency community of Clyde River. There is a facility where elders and disabled people stay that really needs to be renovated. The stairs are really high and if you have a disability, they are just no good. It's really not good for the elders. That facility in Clyde River was being worked on and after I had asked the housing corporation, they said that the work was not completed in Clyde River, although it was started.

Can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation inform us right now as to us when that work will be completed or if there are more plans to do additional work on the elders' care facility in Clyde River and what is being

done with it right now? That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. For the information of the members, when you're asking questions, please be cognizant of the members who are joining us online. It would be preferable to be as brief as possible. Thank you.

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. I don't know the current status of the facility in Clyde River, but I know the work had begun and they were going to look into it further. I can look into this and get back to the member at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. I know the work started on the Clyde River facility and they worked on the stairs because they were just too long. That was not the only problem. The building is not properly staffed and the people who stay there have to do their own housework. Can you also look at housekeeping? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking those questions. I can check into this to ensure no other department, such as the Department of Health, is working on this as well. I will look into the details and respond to the member properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1302 – 5(2): Air Service to Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, members. Good afternoon to the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, there has been some coverage in the news this week about the new air service from Iqaluit to Sanikiluaq, so I would like to ask the minister some questions today to get the information on the record.

As the minister will recall, the need to address Sanikiluaq's unique geography and circumstances has been an issue that I have been raising for some time.

I was pleased that the minister acted on concerns raised by me and the community and recently awarded a contract to start a new air service to the community from Iqaluit.

I do recognize that the current COVID-19 outbreak in Iqaluit is delaying the start of this new service.

For the record, can the minister confirm what criteria will be used to determine when it is safe to start the new air service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the restrictions to be opened for travel, we rely on that through our chief public health office, and once those restrictions are lifted, the service airline to Sanikiluaq will commence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A common question I get is the cost of travel. Can the minister confirm what the return airfare between Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit will be when this contract starts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point right now what we're looking at is having a one-way ticket for the cost of \$1,207.50 and if there are any additional fees that are over and above, those would be included, but the current ticket that we're suggesting to start off is at \$1,207.50. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and

final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Considering the current COVID situation in Iqaluit and it has delayed the start of this contract, can the minister confirm how long the current contract will be in place and can he confirm what criteria the government will use to decide whether or not to extend the length of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are committed to providing this. When we did the tender, it was for up to six months and that's the contract that we will continue to have once the restrictions are lifted. It will be for the six months. Once it's near six months or thereafter we will look at the criteria and whether it was successful or not to see if that can continue, and I'm optimistic that this will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Question 1303 – 5(2): Status of Vaccinations for Youth

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you can all hear me. My box is yellow, so I'll take that as a yes.

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

Mr. Speaker, statistics made available from the chief public health officer indicate that almost a quarter of the COVID cases in Iqaluit have been in individuals under the age of 18.

Can the minister provide an update on when vaccinations will be made available to Nunavut residents who are under the age of 18? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we're anticipating receiving the Pfizer vaccine to use on those who are under 18 and age of 12, between those ages. We are hoping to have them available by mid-June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, reports on youth vaccinations in the national media have raised the issue of consent. In some cases, parents are reluctant to have their children receive the vaccine, and in other cases, children may wish to refuse the vaccine even if their parents would like them to have it. According to reports in the media, parents will not have to sign forms for their children to receive the vaccine.

Can the minister clarify what consideration his department has given to the issue of consent when it comes to

vaccinating youth under the age of 18? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each case will be dealt with individually. Mr. Speaker, there will be discussion and clear acknowledgement of what the vaccine is between the vaccinator or the health professional and the youth and each one will be assessed individually. If the nurse in this case feels that the youth that is under 18 is mature enough to understand the pros and cons of the vaccine and understands fully what they are asking for, then vaccination will be approved.

Mr. Speaker, in cases where if the nurse feels that the individual does not understand fully what the individual is asking for, then there will be further discussion and it may be a case where a parent may need to get involved. We're still working on those issues at this time, but it will have to be clearly understood by the individual of what it is that they are refusing or what it is that they are receiving. 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 the minister for his response as well. I'm excited to hear that you guys have very clear plans for when this vaccine rolls out for the youth.

My last question, Mr. Speaker, to date we have been very fortunate in that some

Nunavut communities have not had any COVID cases. However, it is clear that our youth are vulnerable to the COVID virus and some communities have a high percentage of residents who are under the age of 18.

Can the minister describe how the vaccine for youth program will be rolled out across Nunavut's communities? I realize you may have touched on that earlier, but if you can elaborate a little bit more for the viewers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. Mr. Speaker, it will be rolled out such as we did with the Moderna. In this case we know that there are current cases of COVID in the city of Iqaluit, so my understanding is, initially, the rollout for the under 18 to the age of 12 will most likely start here in Iqaluit and then our COVID team will ensure that there is proper rollout and notice from there, Mr. Speaker.

Priority will be given to those communities that currently have positive cases in the community and from there you go to the most vulnerable or most likely place where it might go to, and from there the team will and is, actually as we speak, analyzing where they go from there. It's a bit more complicated than that, Mr. Speaker, as you can appreciate.

Pfizer has a time where it is usable and has an expiration date and we need to keep those in mind and consider that.

We will need to be working with most likely a charter service to ensure that we get to as many communities as possible in the shortest time as possible, and we will keep the public very closely informed in terms of when that particular vaccine will be hitting their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 1304 – 5(2): Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Capital Planning and Construction

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I want to follow up today on the issue of how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting our capital planning and construction.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that the City of Iqaluit has had to put some of its capital projects on hold as a consequence of dramatically escalating construction costs.

Yesterday the minister informed the Legislative Assembly, "Because of COVID, there has been a lot of talk across North America regarding construction costs...there are situations where some projects might get affected budget-wise, but we are keeping on top of what's going on within southern Canada."

For the record, can the minister tell us today which specific projects she was referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. I would like to clarify my statement from yesterday. While no projects have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID directly, the pandemic will undoubtedly have impacts on scheduling and costs of some projects which could lead to delays in delivery. At this time I can't tell you which projects are going to be delayed or which projects are going to be postponed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there is one project that has been talked about that will be delayed.

It has been recently reported, as the minister is aware, that her department has publicly stated that the Iqaluit deep sea port project is being delayed. Can the minister clarify the reason for the delay and can she confirm the new timeline and budget for the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I don't have that level of detail of information the member is looking for, but that is one of the projects that may be affected due to COVID and because of the delays, but I can get the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in regard to the deep sea port, it was reported that there will be delays, so it's something I thought the minister would be aware of.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has recently cancelled a number of tenders for the construction of new public housing units in various communities, including Iqaluit.

Can the minister clarify how her department is working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address such issues as the dramatic increase across North America in the price of lumber and other construction materials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. The Department of Community and Government Services, along with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, we're working diligently

on all Nunavut Housing Corporation projects to research it and try to figure out why... . We already know why material for construction projects has increased and that is due to COVID in southern Canada, but we are working diligently together to figure out how long the postponement will be and why some of the projects have been cancelled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

I'm sorry. We can't hear him at the moment, but we will return to him. Let's proceed with the other members.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): You can hear me now? Okay.

(interpretation ends) Can you hear me?

Speaker (interpretation): We can hear you now, so you can proceed with your question, Mr. Netser.

Question 1305 – 5(2): Parking Garage for Naujaat

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes it is difficult when you are alone in a room without an aide or when you are not present there.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding the municipal garage in Naujaat.

(interpretation ends) As members recall, I recently tabled photographs that clearly show that Naujaat's municipal garage does not have functional equipment or enough space to store its current

equipment. Can the minister indicate the extent to which her department has reviewed the situation? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: I'm sorry. Can the member repeat the question? I was looking at something else. Sorry. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. I think I misunderstood the member. I apologize to you, Mr. Netser. Minister of Economic Development... .

I apologize. We did anticipate some technical issues, so we should just proceed. I'm sorry. Member, can you clarify which minister you are directing your question to? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm directing my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding the Naujaat parking garage. Thank you. Can you hear me? Maybe you didn't hear me? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Community and Government Services works diligently with the municipalities to make sure that any requests to Community and Government Services

for parking garages are followed under the ICSP. Sorry about the acronym. We make sure that those requests are forwarded to us from the municipalities so that we can work towards helping the communities with their municipal garages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that some projects have been delayed due to COVID-19, such as Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, and Clyde River. Can the minister confirm where Naujaat is currently located on her department's priority list for parking garages? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have that level of information, but I can get the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a cliché when she's saying that she doesn't have that level of detail, but my final question to the minister is it's my understanding that the Municipality of Naujaat had previously provided her department last year with a proposed site location, building plan, and an

approximate estimate of the cost of a new garage. Can the minister commit to having her department review the proposed building plan for a new municipal garage for Naujaat, if she has that level of detail? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to the member asking for that type of information for his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 1306 – 5(2): Fuel Spill in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services as well.

As the minister is aware, a major fuel spill recently occurred in my constituency of Baker Lake. I want to first thank the minister for her efforts to keep my office informed of the situation, and I would like to use my time today to obtain an update on the status of the situation.

As the minister is aware, the community has had concerns about the risk of the leaking fuel contaminating my community's fresh water supply. Can the minister update the House today on the status of her department's work to

prevent this from happening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. On March 5 a gasoline leak was discovered by the fuel contractor within the bulk fuel storage facility. The leak was caused by a ruptured drain valve on the pipeline near the tank farm and was initially reported as 500 to 1,000 litres of NTNU on a spill report. On March 29 gasoline was discovered outside the fuel facility on the south side and reported on March 30.

Mr. Speaker, to date, Community and Government Services has been working diligently with the contractor to ensure that the spill is contained. The department has created a berm to take in all the contaminated snow and we are currently monitoring the spill itself and we will continue to monitor the situation. 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 her response. I'm sure they will be very diligent in overseeing the spill and the cleanup.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an estimate for the cost and timeline to fully respond and remediate the impact of the spill? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. The cost to remediate, clean up contamination, remediation, and tank certification costs are expected to be \$500,000 to \$1 million.

As per their daily activities, daily field reports are provided to the hamlet, Department of Environment, Community and Government Services, Department of Health, Health Canada, Environment Canada, and Petroleum Products Division. All parties join weekly conference calls with contamination and remediation updates. 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 her response. I'm glad that all of the above is being included in this very serious situation and that they're all involved.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what impact the spill will have in respect to repairs to the bulk fuel storage facility and the possible need to airlift in additional supplies of fuel until the summer resupply arrives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, *Uqaqtii*. At this time Community and Government Services is not worried about the bulk fuel supply. I think there is enough fuel there to last until the barge comes in the summertime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1307 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for our Premier, (interpretation ends) Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, earlier during my member's statement, I referenced COVID vaccines and the need to receive vaccination shots to alleviate the chances of getting the virus, but in looking at the figures, I believe we need to work with residents who are reluctant to get vaccinated within Nunavut. It would be much better overall if more people were vaccinated, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Now, in some communities, such as Arviat and Whale Cove, they instituted prizes to try to influence local residents to get vaccinations. Further, this has transpired in some larger cities, such as in the United States where they offered prizes for individuals who got vaccinated and some of the prizes are large sums of money.

My first question to the Premier is: how long has consideration been given by our government to determine if prizes should

be included in the vaccination rounds? Has the government given any thought to this type of initiative, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we have not decided on providing any prizes, and we do hear about the United States where they provide money for people who get vaccinated, but it's not happening in Canada. I'm sure that we increased the number of people who got vaccinated in Arviat when they provided prizes. We are up at 60 percent with the number of people who have received their second vaccinations in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. Why has the government not considered providing prizes to increase the number of people getting vaccinated? I think that the only way to move forward is to get everybody vaccinated in Nunavut. Can the minister reconsider the government's stance on providing prizes and provide some kind incentive to increase the number of people getting vaccinated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not opposed to any new ideas. There's going to be a new round of vaccinations for people between the ages of 12 and 18 and we will look at that number of people who are getting vaccinated. We have had dialogue with the Minister of Health to promote vaccination among the population and the number is increasing. There have been over 17,000 Nunavummiut vaccinated and 15,000 who have received their second vaccinations. The numbers are continually increasing, but when it comes to a stall, we can consider other options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. You stated that it's not closed, so that's good to hear. Can you also consider incentives that come from outside of the government, some assets or money where people from Nunavut can donate prizes or businesses can donate incentive prizes? If they could donate them, can you consider donations as well to be part of this incentive process, like calling it (interpretation ends) Nunavut Sweepstakes or Nunavut Lottery? (interpretation) Can the Premier also consider something like that? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't reached that point yet as to whether we're going to be holding lotteries. We have to work with the Minister of Health before we think of things like that, but we haven't reached that point yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 1308 – 5(2): Pfizer Vaccine for Nunavut Youth

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and I would like to follow up on Mr. Pedersen's questions regarding the Pfizer vaccine for youth.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Government of Canada's website, the Pfizer vaccines are to be shipped to Nunavut approximately between the week of June 7 and 13. My question for minister is: if the vaccine shipment were to arrive on, let's say, June 7, how soon after would the Department of Health begin administering the vaccines to our youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question and the follow-up. Mr. Speaker, our team is currently working on the strategy to be able to start administering the vaccine shortly thereafter it arrives in Iqaluit. I don't have an exact timeline of that, but it would be very shortly thereafter. The vaccine, as I understand it, comes in, in a very frozen state, so it would need to

take time to... . From the time it arrives to being able to be administered safely, there is a time frame and it would be very shortly after that, Mr. Speaker.

Our goal is to begin to vaccinate immediately upon it being able to be done. We definitely do not want to be sitting on any vaccines when there are people who want to be vaccinated, and I assure my colleague that I will keep him very closely informed on its progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In relation to the vaccination strategy for youth in Iqaluit, I'm curious if the planning has gone as far as determining whether it would be through a community-wide clinic or through appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we are looking at those options, if we want to do a community-wide clinic or do it exactly the way we are dealing with the Moderna. We are weighing those at this time and I assure my colleague that once we have the plan secure and be able to share it publicly, we will do that once we have those details ironed out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister again for the response. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the youth are amongst the hardest hit in the outbreak, given their heavy dependence on social interaction. With the continuation of new cases being announced every day and the 28-day requirement beyond the final case before restrictions begin to be lifted, I'm curious if the minister had considered lifting some of the restrictions for youth if they reach herd immunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate that question. The department definitely doesn't want to keep the city or Nunavut in a lockdown state. The sooner we can loosen the communities and start opening and loosening up situations, especially for the youth, we will do that, Mr. Speaker. I think it will be a combination of a few things; no more COVID known cases in the city, for example, and a combination of the number of people with both doses and so on. There is no magic number or date for that, but we are looking to ensure that we loosen the limits within the city and Nunavut as a whole as soon as it is safe to do so for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Question 1309 – 5(2): Public Housing Construction

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. They concern the subject of public housing construction.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is aware that all communities in Nunavut face severe housing shortages. Every community obviously goes through that.

In February of this year the housing corporation issued a tender for the construction of two new public housing five-plexes in the community of Taloyoak. Yesterday an announcement was issued stating that this tender has been cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain the reasons why the tender has been cancelled and can the minister confirm when a new tender will be issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to everyone, and my apologies that we can’t all meet in the same place. I said that I would go to the member’s community because I was invited, but we just haven’t been able to do that yet.

With regard to the question about the construction of two new (interpretation ends) public housing (interpretation) multiplex buildings in Taloyoak, the

construction cannot proceed as planned this year. This is happening in other communities and they will certainly be mentioned in this House, but the reason for the cancellation for the ones in Taloyoak is the cost of construction materials has increased significantly.

The cost of construction has gone up across Canada and because the cost of lumber has increased exponentially, the company that was going to do the construction is no longer able to proceed with the work for this coming year, but it is being planned for the following year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February of this year the housing corporation also issued a tender for the construction of two new five-plexes in our community of Kugaaruk. Can the minister confirm the status of this tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. The construction will proceed for the five-plexes in Kugaaruk, but the five-plexes planned for Taloyoak will not proceed this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm how many housing tenders have been cancelled by the housing corporation in recent weeks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the question correctly, it is related to the territory-wide plans for construction or tenders that will be cancelled for this year. For the four four-plexes in Iqaluit, it went over the tender by \$3.3 million, so we will not be proceeding with that, but there will be other construction projects continuing in Iqaluit. There are two public housing units in Taloyoak, and in Rankin Inlet there was going to be one housing unit that was going to be built but cancelled due to a lack of lots, and there is another five-plex that was planned for Pangnirtung that has also been cancelled. These projects that were planned for this year will not proceed. A total of 31 housing units for the communities and five staff housing units will not proceed this year, but they will be reviewed again in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Qamaniq.

Question 1310 – 5(2): Polar Bear Population Survey

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the graduation ceremony for Nasivvik High

School will commence later on today, so I apologize beforehand that I will not be able to partake with the local parade as we celebrate students who graduated from grade 12.

My question is for the Minister of Environment, who made an announcement yesterday with respect to Lancaster Sound and Boothia Peninsula.

If I am not mistaken, there was going to be a polar bear survey, but the helicopter crashed on April 25, 2021, which resulted in the cancellation of the survey. Will this affect the proposed polar bear population survey for Lancaster Sound and Boothia Peninsula? Are these surveys cancelled now for this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct in that regard, as the polar bear population surveys that were scheduled for all the regions of Nunavut are now going to be cancelled, although we may contemplate restarting them next year. However, we currently do not have any lead biologists to undertake this work, so these studies will be deferred for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response that these surveys will now be deferred until next

year. Now, I wonder if the department will proceed with the studies starting next April. Can this study be continued in the new fiscal year or will we have to move our focus to other scheduled population surveys? That is what I would like information on now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the information of Nunavummiut, whenever we conduct any kind of population survey, such as for polar bears, the biologists conducting the work specialize in polar bears. When we conduct caribou surveys, we use caribou biologists. The proposed surveys for other species are not impacted and will continue, but only the polar bear surveys are affected within this calendar year, so that survey has been suspended for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response to my question. Now, with respect to the polar bear surveys, will this affect the polar bear tags that may possibly have been increased after the polar bear survey results were finalized or perhaps that would be a couple of years after a survey? Will the tags remain where they are for the time being? What is the usual practice upon finding the results of a population survey? This is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Gulf of Boothia polar bear survey that started, it was to proceed again in the following year and it will not affect the tags. Once the survey is completed and there are consultations with the hunters and trappers organization and the community, there would be changes to the number of polar bear tags. The wildlife management board could recommend a change to the number of tags once the population numbers are determined. That particular polar bear survey has not impacted the number of tags. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 1311 – 5(2): Changes to Income Support Policies

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Amitturmiut and members.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question I raised earlier in the winter sitting. I would like to now direct it to the Minister of Family Services.

During our winter sitting, I asked a question in this House about income support clients who provide their banking information and if their income is too high, then their benefits are denied. I would now like to ask the minister if there have been any changes since our winter sitting and what

changes have been made to the policies.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister of Family Services, Ms.
Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): My apologies, Mr.
Speaker. Can you repeat the question?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Mr. Kaerner, please repeat your
question.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Mr.
Speaker, yes, definitely. (interpretation
ends) Mr. Speaker, in our last session, in
the winter sitting, I asked the Minister of
Family Services in regard to those
income recipients of what policies have
been changed. What changes have
happened ever since I asked the
questions on the electronic money
transfer? Have there been any changes or
will it be the same? Have there been any
changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister of Family Services, Ms.
Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. I also thank you for asking that
question. (interpretation ends) Mr.
Speaker, from our last session, the
department is working on all the
questions that were asked under income
support and they're drafting it, and
hopefully there will be something
coming forward in our next session.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister.
Can you elaborate further on what
changes will be made? Their income will
not be affected; I believe \$500 is the
limit. If I'm mistaken, you can correct
me there. Where are the changes?
(interpretation ends) What changes will
be happening from now until the next
session? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr.
Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
Minister of Family Services, Ms.
Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr.
Speaker. (interpretation ends) I
appreciate your question, but they are
reviewing and because they are
reviewing for potential changes, I don't
know what the end result will be because
they are still reviewing it.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank
you, Mr. Speaker. We have the
Department of Family Services
constantly conducting reviews without
ever really responding and nothing
changes. Perhaps you can start directing
your deputies to make quick responses.
Can the minister agree in this House that
the reviews that you conduct are not just
continuing on?

Don't just review the policies you develop, but make concrete changes. Can the minister commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank you and I know your frustration, but these are difficult times. You're talking about a department that deals with income support that has been changed. Our whole department has been impacted by COVID, the frontline, so there are some delays because they're dealing with how to properly and safely provide income support, social assistance, and everything else that the department does. We have been impacted, so it's slower, yes, it is, but it is forthcoming. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed to Item 7. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 082 – 5(2): Status of Decentralization

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Return to Written Question No. 82 that was filed during the 2021 winter sitting of the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 038 – 5(2): Bill 36, Mental Health Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to report that Bill 36, *Mental Health Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 36 can be placed on the (interpretation ends) order paper (interpretation) for May 31.

(interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Notices of Motions.

I apologize. Let's go back to No. 13, as I didn't see the item. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) No. 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasi.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 82 – 5(2).

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 73 – An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act – Notice**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 31, 2021, that Bill 73, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Bill 74 – An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act – Notice

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, May 31, 2021, that Bill 74, *An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Bill 76 – An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – Notice

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, May 31, 2021, that Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Bill 75 – An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act – Notice

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 31, 2021, that Bill 75, *An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Motions. No. 17. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 69 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2020-2021 – First Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 69, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2020-2021*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance.

**Bill 70 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2021-
2022 – First Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 70, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2021-2022*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Bill 71 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2021-2022 – First Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 71, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2021-2022*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Bill 72 – Interim Appropriation
(Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – First
Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 72, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member: Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. No. 18. Oh, there is one more. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance. (interpretation) Oh, I'm sorry. I wonder what's going on today. No. 18. (interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

**Bill 69 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2020-
2021 – Second Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 69, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2020-2021*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reduces the amounts of expenditures authorized for operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 69 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

**Bill 70 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2021-
2022 – Second Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 70, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2021-2022*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 70 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance.

**Bill 71 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2021-2022 – Second Reading**

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 71, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2021-2022*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. (interpretation ends) To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 71 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance.

**Bill 72 – Interim Appropriation
(Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Second
Reading**

Hon. George Hicke: Finally, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 72, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make interim capital expenditures for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 72 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. No. 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 57, 69, 70, 71, *ammalu* 72 with Ms. Angnakak.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 114 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the committee, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:57 and
Committee resumed at 16:27*

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Welcome back, everybody, and welcome to the Assembly. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 57, 69, 70, 71, and 72. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Madam Chairperson, we wish to do a clause-by-clause review of Bill 57 and once concluded, we will report progress. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. Are we in agreement that we will first deal with Bill 57?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 57 – Tobacco and Smoking Act –
Consideration in Committee**

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. I would. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Sergeant-at-Arms...oh, well, the witnesses are there. Thank you. For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials and then proceed

with your opening comments. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to acknowledge the officials here with me today, starting with my far-far right is Deputy Minister of Health Colleen Stockley; to my right, Mr. Thomas Ahlfors, who is the Acting Director, Legislation Division, and the Legislative Counsel for Bill 57; to my immediate left is Kristy Ste Marie, Manager, Tobacco and Cannabis Program; and to my far left, Carlin Twomey, Policy Analyst.

Colleagues, tobacco use is a public health issue in Nunavut that requires a strong legislative response. In fact, while tobacco use rates in the rest of Canada have significantly decreased, Nunavut's tobacco use rates remain high; Nunavut's smoking prevalence is 74 percent. This is higher than Canada's national rate in 1965 and it is four times higher than the current Canadian average. Some communities in Nunavut have reported smoking prevalence as high as 84 percent. Moreover, 51 percent of Nunavut youth aged 12 to 19 smoke, which is more than six times the Canadian youth smoking rate.

Tobacco use directly contributes to high prevalence of serious illnesses and diseases in Nunavummiut, such as lung cancer, tuberculosis, and respiratory issues among infants. Also, as smoking impairs lung function, it makes it harder for the body to fight off COVID-19.

The Department of Health has been working hard to lower tobacco use rates in the territory. To date the department has focused its tobacco control efforts on

education, community programs, and services. To complement its tobacco control strategy, Health has developed the new *Tobacco and Smoking Act* to replace the previous *Tobacco Control and Smoke-Free Places Act*. Up-to-date legislation is an important tool to help lower tobacco use rates and protect people's health. However, aside from some consequential amendments introduced in 2018, Nunavut's tobacco control legislation has not been amended in 15 years and updates are needed for this legislation to be effective.

If passed, the new *Tobacco and Smoking Act* will introduce several new measures to help reduce tobacco use rates in Nunavut and to protect the health of Nunavummiut, particularly children and youth. The proposed *Tobacco and Smoking Act* covers four broad themes:

- Protecting Nunavummiut from second-hand smoke;
- Preventing people from using tobacco and smoking, particularly children and youth;
- Denormalizing tobacco use and reducing the visibility of tobacco and smoking products; and
- Regulating emerging products, such as vaping devices.

Bill 57 includes many best practices established in other Canadian jurisdictions while being tailored to the unique needs of Nunavut and introducing some progressive measures. For example, the Act accounts for vaping, an emerging public health issue. Among other items:

- The Act introduces restrictions on vaping products, including prohibiting the sale of flavoured

vapes, limiting the maximum allowable nicotine concentration, and increasing the minimum age of purchase to 19. Given the rapid and continuous increase in rates of vaping among youth over the last years, it is important that these restrictions come into effect as soon as possible.

- The new Act would also prohibit smoking in all Government of Nunavut public and staff housing units, create new smoke-free places, and prohibit smoking in vehicles with minors. These measures will help to better protect people from second-hand smoke and will have an immediate impact upon coming into force.

The Department of Health has consulted with Nunavummiut, and Bill 57 reflects what we heard at community and stakeholder consultations. Nunavummiut made it clear that they are supportive of enhanced tobacco control measures, including enforcement. For instance, during the consultations for both the *Cannabis Act* and the *Tobacco and Smoking Act*, Nunavummiut noted that they want a stronger emphasis on enforcement, specifically the enforcement of smoke-free places and buffer zones. Nunavummiut also emphasized the importance of protecting the health of children and youth. This Act incorporates best practices in tobacco control and expands on the current legislation.

Bill 57 is a crucial step towards improved tobacco control in the territory and it is a step that Nunavummiut strongly support.

Thank you for your consideration of the *Tobacco and Smoking Act*. My officials and I are ready to address your questions and comments. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill [57], the *Tobacco and Smoking Act*.

The standing committee is in support of the objectives of this bill, which the sponsoring minister outlined in his opening comments. Bill 57 will play a key role in our territory's tobacco control strategy to encourage Nunavummiut to reduce the use of tobacco, to regulate vaping and other smoking products, and to protect the health of our population.

Individual members may raise questions concerning the enforcement of some of the provisions in the bill.

Iksivautaaq, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 57 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Main. I would like to open up the floor to any general comments. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to first start off by thanking the minister and staff for producing this piece of legislation, and of course I can't forget the former Minister of Health as well for playing his role in developing this legislation.

I agree with the overall concept of this bill. It's something that the benefit of which will be essential to reducing the tobacco use rates in the territory. The majority of the concepts behind the bill, of course, prevention, protection, and denormalization, are all something that I fully support, as well as the concept of being out of sight, out of mind.

However, one issue that I had with the bill is continuing to allow minors to sell tobacco products to customers, likely in front of families and their children. This will inevitably negate the benefits being produced through this legislation. I believe a more appropriate approach to out of sight, out of mind would be the store within a store concept such as that which was set out in the cannabis legislation.

Overall I wholeheartedly support this bill and look forward to voting in favour. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. I have no more names, so if everybody can go to Bill 57 in your legislation binder. Pardon me? Oh, Mr. Qirngnuq. Okay. I'm sorry, Mr. Qirngnuq. Mr. Qirngnuq, the floor is yours.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Although I don't have the minister's opening comments, the term "tobacco" is clearly

understood in English, and this other English term, (interpretation ends) "vaping," (interpretation) also comes across clearly. I'm thinking of them as two separate items. If I misunderstood, please correct me, Madam Chairperson. I assume vaping is similar to smoking. I haven't tried vaping products, but I have used tobacco. Can I get clarification on that?

Madam Chairperson, I also want this tobacco legislation passed because of course our young people and our fellow citizens believe these products are harmful to the body. This is why I first asked for clarification on this, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qirngnuq. We are just on (interpretation ends) general comments (interpretation) at this time. Once we deal with that, you can ask questions to the minister. We will be going (interpretation ends) clause by clause. I don't think I have anybody else. Okay. Has everybody got their Bill 57 in front of them, documents? Okay. We will begin clause by clause. Bill 57, *Tobacco and Smoking Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Okay. Page 4. Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 6. Agreed? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Clause 6 mentions flavoured tobacco and vapour products and the minister's opening comments also mentions specifically vaping products. It is something that is changing very quickly.

My question for the minister is: when it came to vaping products in particular, where did you look because these products are evolving so quickly? Where did you look for examples on how to deal with these products? Did you look within Canada, other jurisdictions? I'm just trying to understand how the Nunavut approach in this bill was formulated or how it was decided upon. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I appreciate the question. When the department was looking at the tobacco products and in particular, vaping, there was a lot of consultation with people in the field and people who are very familiar with the vaping products. There was a lot of research done, and maybe through you, Madam Chairperson, if I could have Ms. Kristy Ste Marie give more detail on that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Ms. Ste Marie.

Ms. Ste Marie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We did explore a few different options when specifically looking at vaping products as they are fairly new on the market. The unfortunate reality of it is that other jurisdictions within Canada and around the world have had to get a few things wrong before even being able to get things right.

We also are able to learn a lot from the tobacco industry and tobacco products themselves. We know from years of history that flavoured tobacco products specifically are designed to target youth and children. We are seeing the same exact pattern when it comes to vaping products.

When devising our legislation around vaping, we did look within Canada, around the world, and again, there have been a few things that had to go wrong before we could get to a point of hopefully getting it right. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Ms. Ste Marie. Mr. Main, anything else? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) This bill prohibits the sale of any flavoured vapour products. The minister in his opening comments mentioned the high tobacco use rates in Nunavut, and these vaping products are concerning with the flavoured vapes if they are designed to appeal to youth or minors.

Does the minister have any evidence that vaping has become popular among youth in Nunavut or is it something that has yet to catch on in terms of what we see in southern Canada? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. What we have been seeing is that it is starting to come on. People are really starting to know it and of course, as it becomes available in Nunavut, there will be more attraction to it, but it is starting to grow, though, as people are being able to access it through the Internet and other means. It is starting to catch on and it is gaining traction and we would really like to put a stop to that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Are you done, Mr. Main? Okay. I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 13. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There's a bit of a delay, so maybe if members in the House could be conscious of those of us who are online. I had a question on clause 12, if you will allow it, Madam Chairperson.

Okay. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) My question is regarding enforcement of this list of prohibited places. This clause is regarding the sale of tobacco, but it lists a long list of places where tobacco is not allowed to be sold. When it comes to enforcing the rules laid out in this bill, how does the minister envision enforcement at the community level? Who will be doing the enforcement? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We're looking at having a number of enforcement officers in the regions. I believe we will have at the start half a dozen in total across Nunavut to do enforcement.

I think what's key here at this time is to go through an education process so that the vendors and people who sell tobacco products and other products but would like to get into selling tobacco products know what the rules and laws are

regarding it and the kind of penalties that would be enforced if vendors and the retail outlets don't follow the rules. I think the key at this time is to educate the public and the private sector and the public sector in terms of what the laws are and what the penalties hold.

In all these, the list here that is identified in No. 12, they will be made aware that they can't have these products. The key right now, though, is to educate them so that they know that they can't be doing this and, if they are breaking the laws, what we have at this time is we will have enforcement officers that will deal with offenders of these rules. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Main, are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Okay. We're going to go back to clause 12. Clause 12. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I was going to ask under clause 13 and it goes on to say "Modes of sale – tobacco" and "Modes of sale – vapour products and herbal shisha." It says that at a permanent physical retail, order online for vapour products. Is that illegal? Will that be illegal or anybody can order through the Internet? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Qamaniq. (interpretation ends) Before I go to the minister for a response, I would like to redo clause 12. Do we agree to clause 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Okay. For clause 13, Minister Kusugak, would you respond to Mr. Qamaniq's question, please?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, you are not allowed to purchase tobacco products online. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Qamaniq, anything else?

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I guess it would be very hard to implement this Act, no. 13, when we don't know if anybody would be ordering vaping products from southern Internet stores. That's all. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. (interpretation) Minister Kusugak, that wasn't a question, but would you like to respond? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We could only ask that they not do that. If people want to conduct themselves in illegal matters, it would have to be dealt with by the proper authorities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Are you done?

(interpretation ends) Okay. Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 20. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Clause 20, the definition includes the definition of the smoke-free places, one of which 20(2)(i) includes motor vehicles when a minor is present in it. I just wanted to thank the minister and the Department of Health for including this in the definition of smoke-free places. I definitely have an issue whenever I see someone smoking in a vehicle with a toddler in the back, so I just wanted to thank you for incorporating that into this legislation. I really hope that we will see changes in

smoking habits going forward. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 24. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Clause 24, my questions are in relation to smoke-free housing. Under the definition in this section it states that publicly funded housing providers must include a prohibition of smoking in tenancy agreements. Given the fact that the largest landlord in the territory is of course the Nunavut Housing Corporation through staff housing and public housing, I was wondering: when will this clause come into effect? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Within two years of its passing. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister, for that response. As I indicated that the Government of Nunavut, being a publicly funded housing provider, is the largest landlord in the territory, I was wondering, through consultations and the development phase of this piece of legislation, if the Nunavut Housing Corporation had indicated if there is a large prevalence of smoking within publicly funded housing. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Is the question: did the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicate if there were a lot of tenants that are smoking in the house, in the rentals? Do we know that information? Madam Chairperson, if I could have Kristy Ste Marie respond to that through you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Ms. Ste Marie.

Ms. Ste Marie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We don't have actual statistics on the numbers who currently smoke in NHC housing. This clause did come from effect of something that we heard through cannabis consultations and tobacco consultations from community members across the territory for the need and the want to access to smoke-free housing, whether that was in their own dwelling or from neighbouring dwellings. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for elaborating on that. One of the key aspects of this bill that I really appreciate is, of course, the protection of minors and one of the matters that were brought up during the cannabis legislation was the impacts of second-hand smoke in multi-unit dwellings.

The reason I'm asking about the consultation between the Department of Health and the Nunavut Housing Corporation during the development of this bill was whether or not the NHC had indicated that there is any significant level of smoking going on within publicly funded housing units. The reason I'm curious again is because I'm assuming that a majority of those publicly funded housing units have minors that reside in them or are adjacent to those units who are being impacted by the second-hand smoke.

I understand that there were no specific statistics provided in relation to the amount of smoking going on in publicly funded housing, but I'm just curious if the Nunavut Housing Corporation had identified if they know if there is a large number of smoking going on within these units. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My understanding is that the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicated that there is smoking permitted in the public housing units. When you take a look at the high percentage of

smokers of Nunavummiut, you can pretty much realize that there will also be a high number of people who continue to smoke in public housing units within Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister, again for that response. In response to my previous question, the minister had indicated that the housing corporation will comply with the smoke-free housing policy within two years' time. When that comes into effect... . Sorry.

Going back to the top of page 16, 2(a), it indicates that the smoke-free housing policy, specifically a prohibition on smoking is included in every new tenancy agreement of a private dwelling entered into by the publicly funded housing provider as a landlord. The specific wording of that clause 2(a), every new tenancy agreement will have such a clause in it regarding smoke-free housing.

I'm curious: if and when the Nunavut Housing Corporation completes that smoke-free housing policy, from that point on, would every new tenancy agreement then include the smoke-free housing policy and in short, no minor within that dwelling will be harmed by the impacts of second-hand smoke? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My understanding

of this policy or this Act is that those people who...I didn't mean to say "those people," but those people who are currently in a housing unit, whether it's a Government of Nunavut housing unit or a local housing association or government staff housing unit, those that are currently smoking in those units will be allowed to continue to smoke in those units until they get a new tenancy agreement, which would be to move out of that unit or move into a different unit. That's when it would be taken into effect if we do not make any changes. I stand to be corrected, but I believe that's how it is. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister, for the response. That was something that I was a bit worried about and why I was digging into this matter through a number of questionings. This specific wording in this clause stating that every new tenancy agreement will incorporate a smoke-free housing policy and the current individuals with tenancy agreements will be grandfathered in, so to speak, and will be allowed to continue to smoke within their housing with minors in the residences. Is that correct? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is correct. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that

clarification, minister. The next question that I would like to ask is: why was that particular wording determined to be appropriate, every new tenancy agreement that must have a smoke-free housing policy, and specifically why every new tenancy agreement and not just every tenancy agreement must have? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Many of the tenants that are maybe smoking in their units have been in there and the thought was it would eventually work itself out of the system, I believe, but Madam Chairperson, if the committee wants to change that, that's what we're here for. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: I could see Adam thinking. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I know I'm running short on the time clock, so we will keep this short.

I would like to thank the minister for that response. You have intrigued me now. If the committee determined it would be appropriate to change the wording by removing the specific word "new" out of that clause, what would the implications be? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I stand to be corrected, but if it is the wish of this committee to amend the regulations so

that it reads that effective when this bill comes into effect, two years after we approve it or it has been passed, that there will be no smoking in any public housing units or housing units that are administered through the Government of Nunavut, we can do that by making an amendment to this section or to this Act. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thanks again, minister, for that clarification. I was wondering if the minister would mind if the committee took a brief recess to discuss this matter. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

**Committee Motion 014 – 5(2): Bill 57,
Tobacco and Smoking Act,
Amendment to Clause 24**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We could make amendments to the motion to read that. I understand that we could make a motion to make an amendment to the *Smoking and Tobacco Act* to make it such, as I believe, what Mr. Lightstone is talking about to ensure that there is no smoking in public housing or government units. Madam Chairperson, I have that amendment before me. With that then, I move that clause 24 be amended by adding the following paragraph. I believe that colleagues have copies of this. They will have it. Okay.

I move that clause 24 be amended by adding the following paragraph (1)(a):

(a.1) any other entity that rents staff housing to

- (i) Members of the public service; or
- (ii) Other employees of a public agency;

(b) by replacing subclauses (2) to (4) with the following:

Prohibition on smoking

(2) A person shall not smoke in a private dwelling that is leased from a publicly funded housing provider.

Prohibition included in tenancy agreement

(3) A publicly funded housing provider shall include a prohibition on smoking in every tenancy agreement for a private dwelling that is or has been entered into by it as landlord.

Deemed inclusion in tenancy agreement

(4) Despite the *Residential Tenancies Act*, the prohibition on smoking referred to in section (3) is binding on tenants as a condition of their tenancy agreement as soon as the publicly funded housing provider provides them with written notice of the prohibition, regardless of

- (a) whether the prohibition is otherwise included in the text of the tenancy agreement; or
- (b) whether the tenancy agreement was entered into before or after this Act received Assent or comes into force.

Sub-lessor

(5) This section applies even when

- (a) the publicly funded housing provider sub-leases a private dwelling that it has leased from another person; or
- (b) a private dwelling leased or sub-leased from a publicly funded housing provider is sub-leased by the tenant to another person.

That is it for now, Madam Chairperson. I shall move.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Just for colleagues to know that the Clerk has sent the motion to you via the RBCDD account. We are just going to take a short 10-minute break just to make sure that everybody has that copy and that they can read it themselves.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:09 and resumed at 17:12*

Chairperson: Just for the members that aren't here with us, do you all have a copy of the motion? If you can raise your hand if you have a copy of the motion. Okay. Calvin. Okay. There are three missing, so from my...I don't know where. Cathy, Tony, and Mr. Rumbolt are not there. Oh, Tony is there. Tony, do you have a copy of the motion? No? Did you open up your Internet there? Mr. Rumbolt, do you have a copy of the motion? Raise your hand if you do. No.

Did you open up the RMCBD? Did you open that up? You know that distribution

of all the documents, we're going to go into that. Did you open that up? Is it there? I did it through my Assembly, I think. Yes, it shows up on its own. I think I did mine through my Assembly, but do you have both that you can see there? I have mine on my phone. Okay, Mr. Clerk says that he will send it to your constituency email. That's where it goes, so it should be there.

Mr. Rumbolt: I'll try it again.

Chairperson: Okay. Yes, correct. Yes, look at that constituency email.

Let me do a roll call again. Everybody that is not here in the Assembly, do you have the copy of the motion? Please raise your hand and then I will see that you have it and who hasn't got it.

Cathy, I don't see you raising your hand. Do you have a copy of the motion, Cathy? Okay.

Okay. Mr. Akoak, do you have a copy? Did you try to open up your constituency email? Okay, I don't know if Mr. Akoak is able to open up his email or not. He can't do it. You have it? No, you don't have it. Okay.

Well, I'm going to go ahead. I think everybody has had some time to read it. Just to make sure. The motion is in order. To the motion. Are there any questions? Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Does this include medical marijuana as well as the black market that they smoke in publicly funded places? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That includes everything smoking, yes, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done, Mr. Qamaniq? (interpretation ends) Okay. (interpretation) Anyone else? Mr. Main. (interpretation ends) Go ahead, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Earlier the minister had mentioned a period of two years in terms of implementing this part of the bill. I note that this motion makes reference to deemed inclusion and tenancy agreement. Once the prohibition comes into place, it is automatically binding on tenants as a condition of their tenancy agreement. My question is: does this motion change the timelines at all in terms of when this will be implemented? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: I'm just going to go ahead and let the minister. Minister.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I could have Mr. Ahlfors respond to the legality of this. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Okay. Apparently I did the wrong thing. I wasn't supposed to allow that question because we are talking to the motion and not general questions, so if we could strike that and we will go back to the motion. Are there any specific questions to the motion? I'm looking behind you too and I'm sorry.

Okay. I don't have any more questions to the motion. I guess we go to a vote. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion has passed. Yes, we had three opposed. Put up your hands again, please, for opposed. Okay. The motion is passed. Okay. Shall we go back now to clause 24. Mr. Main, did you have any questions for clause 24?

Mr. Main: No, Madam Chairperson, no questions. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Okay. Let's go to clause 24, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Okay. Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 26. Agreed? Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just looking for clarification on enforcement; (1), the minister may appoint enforcement officers for the purpose of this Act. It's the "may" part that I'm looking for clarification for. I believe earlier the minister's answer to Mr. Main was that the department will use enforcement officers, but now in clause 26 it says "may." Can I get clarification on what they're going to do? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: It's pretty clear there, Madam Chairperson. If there are enforcement officers that need to be appointed, the minister of the day may

appoint some. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Simailak, anything else? Are you done? (interpretation ends) Okay. Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 38. Agreed? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Just this clause is regarding the assistance of bylaw officers and it mentions that there is a possible role for bylaw officers in this bill. Does the minister envision that bylaw officers would need any specific training or additional equipment if they are to provide assistance in terms of enforcing this Act? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I could have Ms. Kristy Ste Marie respond to that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Ste Marie.

Ms. Ste Marie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, we would include training for anyone. There would be an expectation for enforcement, whether that is through an appointment, a public officer, or a bylaw. This training would include both a component for education and awareness-raising and from an enforcement perspective. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Mr. Main, anything else? Are you done? Okay. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just a quick clarification if bylaw officers will be used. Traditionally our bylaw officers work in the evenings. If they're needed during the daytime outside of their regular hours, will additional funds be provided to the hamlets for this enforcement? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Well before the enforcement officers would be requested, I'm sure that the department would be working with the municipalities to ensure that the compensation and support needed from the enforcement officer in the municipality is dealt with beforehand. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. Are you done, Mr. Simailak? (interpretation ends) Okay, so I don't have any other names. Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Go to the Schedule on page 34. Schedule. Do members agree to the Schedule? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: That took a while. Is there anybody with their hands up? Okay. Clause 45. Oh, sorry. Minister Kusugak.

**Committee Motion 015 – 5(2): Bill 57,
Tobacco and Smoking Act,
Amendment to Schedule**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to move that the Schedule be amended by replacing “24(4)” with “24(3)” and b) adding “24(2)” after “22(1).” Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: I guess we’re waiting for that line. We don’t have a copy, I don’t believe, of this motion, so let’s just take a short break for now ‘til we figure this out. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:28 and resumed at 17:31

Chairperson: Oh, my mic was off? Sorry. Should I say that all over again?

The motion is in order. To the motion. Any questions?

An Hon. Member (interpretation):
Question.

Chairperson: I don’t see anybody raising their hands. I don’t see any nays. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is passed.

Okay, so we go on. Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 48. Agreed?
Minister Kusugak.

**Committee Motion 016 – 5(2): Bill 57,
Tobacco and Smoking Act,
Deletion of Clause 48**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move that clause 48 be deleted. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: This page is in the same document that was sent to you by Mr. Quirke earlier. The motion is in order. To the motion. Any questions? No questions. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is passed.

Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 51. Minister Kusugak.

**Committee Motion 017 – 5(2): Bill 57,
Tobacco and Smoking Act,
Deletion of Clause 51**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move that clause 51 be deleted. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: My colleagues, again, this motion is on the last page, once again with the document that Mr. Quirke has sent you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Any questions? Seeing no questions. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is passed.

Was that 51 I did? Clause 51. Agreed? As amended? Excuse me. I'll say that again. Clause 51, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 52. Minister Kusugak.

**Committee Motion 018 – 5(2): Bill 57,
Tobacco and Smoking Act,
Amendment to Clause 52**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move that the English version clause 52 be amended in paragraph 22.31(b) by deleting "4." Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) The

motion is in order. To the motion. Any questions?

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Chairperson: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is passed.

Clause 52, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 53. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 54. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 55. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 56. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to Bill 57 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to put Bill 57, as amended, on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Closing comments, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. First of all, I want to thank the staff in our department who

have put many hours into this Act. There has been a lot of work put into it and all the people in Nunavut who participated in the consultations, we really appreciate their input, Madam Chairperson. I just want to thank the staff in this room with me for their hard work and support while we presented this to the committee. I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses out, please. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried and I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. Is there a report from the committee? Ms. Angnakak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 57 and would like to report progress and would like to report that Bill 57 is immediately ready for third reading, as amended, and that five committee motions were adopted. 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? Mr. Keyootak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation) No. 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 57 – Tobacco and Smoking Act – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 57, *Tobacco and Smoking Act*, as amended, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 57 is ready for assent.

(interpretation) No. 22. *Orders of the Day*. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 31:

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
 - Bill 73
 - Bill 74
 - Bill 75
 - Bill 76
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 36
 - Bill 69
 - Bill 70
 - Bill 71
 - Bill 72

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Have a great weekend, everyone, and be okay and take care of yourselves. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Monday, May 31, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:44*

Appendix – May 28, 2021



RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Asked by: John Main, MLA

Asked of: Hon. Joe Savikataaq, MLA
Premier

Number: 82-5(2)

Date: March 16, 2021

Subject: Status of Decentralization

Question 1:

“Expressing the information in a comparable format to that which was provided in Returns to Written Question 12-4(2) and 26-4(3) and 004-5(2), what is the status of the Government of Nunavut’s decentralization initiative as of March 1, 2021?”

Note: With approval from the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the information provided is as of March 31, 2021.

Response to Question 1:

By 2004, the Government of Nunavut (GN) committed to decentralize certain functions or divisions for a combined total of 459 positions to the 10 designated communities. As of March 31, 2021 there were 1,897 other government positions in those 10 communities.

	<u>December 2004</u>	<u>March 2021</u>
Total Positions in Decentralized Communities (includes 459 designated decentralized)	1,483	2,356
Total Positions in Iqaluit, Headquarters	1,226	2,170
Total Positions in Non-Decentralized Communities	<u>589</u>	<u>741</u>
Total Positions	3,198	5,267

As of March 31, 2021, 2,170 positions (approximately 41 per cent) were located in Iqaluit, while 3,097 positions (approximately 59 per cent) were located outside of Iqaluit. The 459 designated decentralized positions commitment constitute approximately nine per cent of the total GN positions.

The decentralization data is broken down by current departmental structures. The data includes the following GN departments and territorial corporations:

- Community and Government Services (CGS)
- Culture and Heritage (CH)
- Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA)
- Education (EDU)
- Finance (FIN)
- Health (HEA)
- Family Services (FS)
- Justice (JUS)

- Economic Development and Transportation (EDT)
- Environment (ENV)
- Human Resources (HR)
- Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)
- Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC)
- Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC)
- Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (NBCC)
- Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC)

The non-financial data for all departments and territorial corporations except Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) and Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC) was generated from ePersonality as of March 31, 2021. The data for was provided by the corporation. The data for QEC and NDC was provided by the corporation (however, as specified in the Nunavut Development Act, NDC employees are not members of the Nunavut Public Service).

Question 1(a):

From April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2021, how many Government of Nunavut departmental, board, agency and crown corporation positions (broken down by entity) were decentralized from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet or Cambridge Bay to another community (broken down by community)?

Response to Question 1(a):

Attached is the list of cabinet approved decentralized positions by employing entity and community as of March 31, 2021:

Community	EIA	FIN	FS	JUS	CH	EDU	HEA	NHC	ENV	CGS	EDT	HR	NDC	NAC	QEC	Total
Kinngait								16		19	2					37
Igloolik		7			16				13	1		5				42
Pangnirtung	5		10			4	17			1	12					49
Pond Inlet				1		13				27	6					47
Qikiqtarjuaq									1							1
Resolute Bay											1					1
Arviat						22		6	2	1	2			8		41
Baker Lake					5					14					31	50
Rankin Inlet									1	9	14	5	5	1		35
Cambridge Bay							1			5		5				11
Gjoa Haven				5							5					10
Kugluktuk			1		10		6			7						24
Iqaluit					1	7	2		1	2	3			2		18
Total	5	7	11	6	32	46	26	22	18	86	45	15	5	11	31	366

NB: NBCC is not included in the table as all NBCC positions are now located in Iqaluit.

Question 1 (b):

As of March 31, 2021, how many of these positions were filled on an indeterminate or term basis with employees considered as members of the Public Service?

AND

Question 1(c):

As of March 31, 2021, how many of these positions were filled with Nunavut Inuit and how many were filled with non-Inuit?

Response to Questions 1(b) and 1(c):

The response considers how the position was filled on March 31, 2021 and not as of the date of decentralization. Below are the numbers of Inuit versus non-Inuit as of March 31, 2021, broken down between indeterminate and term employments. NDC employees are not included in these totals because they are not members of the Public Service.

Employment Status	Nunavut Inuit	Non-Inuit	Total
Indeterminate	151	88	239
Term	1	7	8
Total	152	95	247

Question 1(d):

As of March 31, 2021, how many of these positions were filled with persons who were previously living in the decentralized community, or elsewhere in Nunavut, and how many were filled with persons relocating from out of Territory?

Response to Question 1(d):

ePersonality captures local hire information for individuals, but not employments. Of those positions filled, 167 of those employees were hired locally. ePersonality does not capture information about the point of origin of a relocated person and does not distinguish between employees relocating from elsewhere in Nunavut or from out of territory.

Question 1(d) continued:

As of March 31, 2021, how many positions had been vacant for more than six (6) months (broken down by employing entity and community)?

Response to Question 1(d) continued:

Positions are considered vacant until filled by an indeterminate or term employee. Positions that have been only filled on a contractual or casual basis are still deemed vacant. The response includes positions that were vacant as of March 31, 2021.

The number of positions vacant for more than six (6) months by employing entity and by community as of March 31, 2021 was:

Community	EIA	FIN	FS	JUS	CH	EDU	HEA	NHC	ENV	CGS	EDT	HR	NDC	NAC	QEC	Total
Kinngait								1		7						8
Igloolik		3			3				6	1						13
Pangnirtung	2		1				3			1	4					11
Pond Inlet						5				8						13
Arviat						10		1						1		12
Baker Lake					1					4					3	8
Rankin Inlet											4	1	2			7
Cambridge Bay										1						1
Gjoa Haven				2							1					3
Kugluktuk					1		1			1						3
Iqaluit						2					2			1		5
Total	2	3	1	2	5	17	4	2	6	23	11	1	2	2	3	84

NB: NBCC is not included in the table as all NBCC positions are now located in Iqaluit.

Question 2:

“As of March 1, 2021, what was the status of the implementation of the “Key Actions,” “Key Recommendations” and “Timelines” contained in the Government of Nunavut’s Decentralization Action Plan, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 5, 2012?”

Response to Question 2:

The GN’s Decentralization Action Plan tabled on June 5, 2012, identified common goals and identified activities and timelines for each of the following four areas:

1. Community
2. Communications
3. Strengthening the Model
4. Capacity Building

The Decentralization Action Plan has concluded. The updates provided below as of March 31, 2017, and March 31, 2018 are the final updates on the implementation of the Decentralization Action Plan.

Of the 26 identified actions, 22 were completed as of March 31, 2018. Actions taken under the Decentralization Action Plan included the maintenance of at least 60 per cent of public service jobs outside of Iqaluit, increased visibility of Government Liaison Officers to help people understand what the GN does in each community, ongoing human resources supports to encourage local hiring and staff hard-to-fill positions, ongoing training and development opportunities for managers and employees in all communities to support capacity building, and an ongoing employee and cultural orientation program to help new hires integrate into their workplace.

Three proposed actions related to the creation of local managers' networks, which were not established. The Department of Human Resources (HR) provides ongoing support and training to managers through the Employee Relations division and through specialized training opportunities such as the *Hivuliqtikhanut* Leadership Development Program. Under the 2021-22 Business Plan, HR is also implementing an onboarding process that will support departments to orient new employees to the workplace, with the goal of increasing engagement and retention.

The remaining proposed action was to develop promotional videos for communities related to job candidates, which were not created. Under the 2017-23 Master Inuit Employment Plan, the GN participates in specialized career fairs and targets post-secondary institutions to position the public service as an employer of choice. A 'role models' campaign features Inuit employees to build awareness of the public service as a place to have an interesting and rewarding career. Many departmental Inuit Employment Plans include public outreach and communications to promote in-demand occupations and attract potential Inuit candidates to jobs available in the department or agency.

Overall, the Government of Nunavut has strengthened decentralization by:

- Improving structures and supports for a decentralized public service;
- Building capacity to deliver programs and services;
- Promoting Inuit employment and Inuit Societal Values; and
- Improving communications and networks among decentralized offices.

The overarching recommendation from the 2011 Decentralization Review and the resulting 2012 Decentralization Action Plan was that to improve the effectiveness of the public service and its community-based offices, the GN has to emphasize capacity-building across all positions and communities, and not focus only on the subset of the 459 positions originally decentralized by 2004.

As a result, the GN remains committed to ensuring that at least 60 per cent of all public service positions are located outside of Iqaluit. This balance is maintained as new positions are created in decentralized and non-decentralized communities, as well as in Iqaluit. Cabinet approval is also required for transfer of positions between communities.

Decentralization Action Plan Area: Community

Key Recommendation	Key Actions	Departmental Roles	Time line	March 31, 2017 Update	March 31, 2018 Update
<p>Making Changes in Decentralization Policy and Governance</p>	<p>Aim to situate at least 60 per cent of all public service jobs outside of Iqaluit</p>	<p>All departments have a role –with central coordination of ensuring positions are created outside of Iqaluit led by the Department of Human Resources (HR)</p>	<p>60% of all positions located outside of Iqaluit has been met the objective will be to continue to monitor new positions and location</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,202 positions in decentralized communities • 631 positions in non-decentralized communities • 1,950 positions in Iqaluit <p>FIN continuously monitors GN employment statistics.</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,250 positions in decentralized communities • 649 positions in non-decentralized communities • 1,991 positions in Iqaluit
	<p>In recognition of positions located outside of Iqaluit aim for a better fit between positions and community, including strengths, characteristics and labour market</p>	<p>Led by HR, Education, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA), Economic Development and Transportation (EDT) and Finance to produce an Inuit Labour Force Analysis to be used by all departments for understanding the labour market.</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>A trilateral (Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik) working group has been conducting weekly teleconferences since April 2015 to discuss various surveys being conducted in Nunavut.</p> <p>The Government of Canada will complete a Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis report in the last quarter of 2017-18 in consultation with the GN & NTI.</p>	<p>The Nunavut Inuit Labour Force Analysis report was completed in February 2018 and shared between the trilateral working group (Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik) to guide internal discussion. The trilateral working group is currently using the report to revise future surveys.</p>
<p>Strengthening the Decentralization Model</p>	<p>Establish a local Managers' Network led by an Assistant Deputy Minister to assist in coordinating activities of the Managers' Network</p>	<p>ADM-HR to develop local Managers' Network</p>	<p>April 2013</p>	<p>The Department of Human Resources was dissolved in 2012, as was the ADM-HR position. A local Managers' Network was not created.</p>	
	<p>Involve Government</p>	<p>ADM-HR and the Director</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2017, 24 out of 25</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2018, 24 out of</p>

	Liaison Officers in the network and in coordinating with community	GLO to lead GLO participation in local Managers' Network and community coordination		Government Liaison Officer positions are staffed indeterminately.	25 Government Liaison Officer positions are staffed indeterminately.
	Improve the visibility and transparency of GN activities in all communities	Departments need to hold more community visits at the ADM and Senior Management levels, including in the meetings discussions with the local Managers' Network and encourage meetings with community members where possible	Ongoing	The Government Liaison officer ensures government programs and services are easily accessible for all Nunavummit. The Government Liaison Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves as a reliable source of information about government programs Acts as a delivery agent for certain government services Allows for feedback to government Provides coordination for collaborative initiatives between levels of government. 	As of April 30, 2018, all 25 Government Liaison Officer positions will be staffed indeterminately.
Practicing Inuit Societal Values (ISV)	Encourage and support personal integration of new hires into the workplace and community	This should be built into each department's employee orientation process	Ongoing with each new hire	EIA delivers an employee orientation program quarterly in Iqaluit and on an as-needed basis in the decentralized communities.	In 2017-18, EIA delivered 18 employee orientations in 12 communities.

Decentralization Action Plan Area: Communications

Key Recommendation	Key Actions	Departmental Roles	Timeline	March 31, 2017 Update	March 31, 2018 Update
Strengthening the Decentralization Model	Engage GN employees in regional and community-based offices in	All departments should ensure this action plan is shared with employees in	To be done electronically A/SAP by members of the	The decentralization action plan was shared with GN employees in 2012.	

	implementing the plan	communities outside of Iqaluit	Building Capacity Committee working group with employees outside of Iqaluit		
	Identify a director-level sponsor to provide local leadership for the Managers' Network	ADM-HR to work with community directors to take on leadership roles	A SAP and ongoing as turnover within management occurs	A local Managers' Network was not created.	
	Help people understand what the GN does in each community	GLO participation in community events is critical as is the creation of radio advertisements that can be aired by CARS in each community that broadens community understanding of the GN role	December 2012 and Ongoing	As of March 31, 2017, 24 out of 25 Government Liaison Officer positions are staffed indeterminately. The GLO division establishes and maintains active two-way communications with the public and provides easier access to programs and services.	As of March 31, 2018, 24 out of 25 Government Liaison Officer positions are staffed indeterminately.
	Engage municipalities in implementing parts of the plan	The GLO's in each community will be key to the success of engaging communities and will bring in all departments as needed	A SAP – and ongoing as the availability of GLO's become more prevalent in Nunavut's communities		
	Encourage managers to explain their decision making processes to staff	All departments need to encourage more interaction amongst management and staff	A SAP and ongoing	The Government of Nunavut has several HR directives that encourage managers to explain their decision making processes to staff, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRM 318 Inuit Oaqqimajetugangit 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRM 316 Performance Management System 	
	Provide the right tools to enable more direct contact with colleagues and managers at a distance	As increased bandwidth comes into the territory more will need to be done to supplement what is already being done today which includes phone, fax and email	Dependant on the Information Communication Technology (ICT) strategy and improvements to Nunavut's broadband access	Improvements to Nunavut's broadband access have led to more reliable communication and more direct contact with colleagues and managers at a distance. GN Departments can now access video conference through CGS Help Desk in 11 communities as well as through the Telehealth network in all communities. Currently, video conference is being used by GN Departments for meetings, interviews, and training courses.	
Enable Decision Making and Influence	Develop and communicate a process for consultation and information-sharing within departments and agencies	The local Managers' Network will include provisions for increased dialogue and engagement amongst departments and agencies	April 2013	All GN departments and agencies regularly consult and share information with each other as part of normal operations and processes.	
	Recognize that even small administrative decision making powers will improve the situation in community-based offices	All departments should encourage change and build upon the delegation of authority mechanisms in place today to encourage autonomy recognizing where the process of approvals currently takes place. Supervisors should also be encouraged to take	December 2012 and ongoing	EIA offers a number of training courses and programs that focus on the development of supervisory skills, effective leadership, and delegation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hvullgitthanut Leadership Development Program (Emerging Leaders' Series, Supervisors' Series, Senior Managers' Series) • Managing Remote Teams • Fundamentals of Supervision 	EIA continues to expand the variety of training courses that focus on the development of supervisory skills, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegating for Growth • Managing and Leading Change • Management Skills for Non-Managers • Effective Team Development • Leadership for Team

		training in delegating authority whenever possible.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders and Supervisors • And others
	Develop promotional videos for communities related to job candidates	EDT should take a lead role in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College (NAC) and Nunavut Tourism on the development of promotional videos to be distributed to HR and other employing departments and agencies of the GN, including identifying ways on promoting employment through trade shows, career fairs, and television with possible inclusion during pre-theatre events	April 1, 2013 for development of videos and distribution to all departments / agencies	Promotional videos for job candidates were not created.	
	Include social integration of new hires in the activities of the local Managers' Network and the GLO	The GLO's in each community will lead this process that would include orientation into the community and the local Managers' Network	April 2013	GN supervisors lead in the social and professional integration of new hires. EIA also delivers a cultural orientation program quarterly in Iqaluit and on an as-needed basis in the decentralized communities, which includes social and cultural activities.	In 2017-18, EIA delivered 18 cultural orientations in 12 communities.
	Ensure that professionals and para-professionals are connected and develop specialists	The Managers' Network is to connect each of the targeted groups	April 2013	EIA has offered a number of occupational training programs that support para-professionals and professionals to develop specialist expertise, including:	

	expertise			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Skills Development Program• Supervisory Skills Program• Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma• And others	
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Decentralization Action Plan Area: Strengthening the Model

Key Recommendation	Key Actions	Departmental Roles	Timelines	March 31, 2017 Update	March 31, 2018 Update
Making Changes in Decentralization Policy and Governance	Establish a more accurate and realistic count of government positions to help manage expectations about local access to GN jobs and services	HR will lead the data collection and analysis of all GN positions as a part of the overall PY control project initiated in 2011 and as an ongoing process into providing quality data collection and analysis	December 2012	There are 4,783 GN positions as of March 31, 2017. Statistical data on GN positions is recorded quarterly in the Towards a Representative Public Service (TRPS) report.	There are 4,889 GN positions as of March 31, 2018.
	Ensure that decision makers have strategic advice, analysis and accurate information to support decisions on where to locate people and positions	HR will lead all departments at streamlining the process for position movement outside of Iqaluit and recommend that the authority for position movement be at the administrative level	December 2012	According to the GN's Government Process Manual, Cabinet approval is required for transfer of positions between communities.	
Improving Structures and Supports for a Decentralized Public Service	Wherever possible, design community-based functions as intact work units with an on-site manager, rather than isolated positions with remote management	HR will lead this process through the development of the HR Strategic Plan and will discuss future projects that impact on increased government operations with a view to increasing positions outside of Iqaluit	April 2013	The GN Human Resource Strategy was completed with specific goals and objectives set to be implemented GN-wide between 2014 and 2018, including establishing departmental staffing plans and improving workforce data for planning and decision-making.	The development of the next GN Human Resource Strategy is a business plan priority for FIN in 2018-19.
	Provide GN employees with a view of any improvements planned over the next several	All departments should encourage a positive and optimistic outlook by discussing plans for	ASAP and ongoing	As of March 31, 2017, GN computer workstations have been fully upgraded to the Wfndows 8.1 operating system, and GN departments now have access	

	years to improve working conditions and tools	implementing the GN ICT strategic plan, information systems improvements, technology upgrades and any other scheduled office improvements.		to videoconferencing technology.	
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Decentralization Action Plan Area: Capacity Building

Key Recommendation	Key Actions	Departmental Roles	Timelines	March 31, 2017 Update	March 31, 2018 Update
Making Changes in Decentralization Policy and Governance	Ensure all GN functions are structured, staffed and or located in the best way to deliver programs and services	HR will lead this process through the development of the HR Strategy that integrates community readiness and departmental consultation	April 2013	The GN Human Resource Strategy was completed with specific goals and objectives set to be implemented GN-wide between 2014 and 2018. EIA and FIN will now evaluate the implementation and begin developing the next HR Strategy.	The development of the next GN Human Resource Strategy is a business plan priority for FIN in 2018-19.
Improving Structures and Supports for a Decentralized Public Service	Place a priority on staffing management positions that have been vacant for a long time	All departments should initiate the lead on identifying vacant positions with support from HR on staffing them, in addition the GN should review the rating system for allocation of staff housing to reflect this action item as a priority	ASAP and Ongoing	The NHC is currently conducting a Staff Housing Policy review. The review will recommend changes to the policy, including reexamination of the category rating system used to prioritize staff housing by position. The review will also explore the feasibility of altering existing GN staff housing subsidy models, and examine options for homeownership programs to support access to market housing. A consultant has been working with Finance and NHC and the review is	In the first half of fiscal year 2018-19 the NHC will finalize its recommendations to Cabinet with respect to the Staff Housing Policy review. A central aim of the update will be to support improving the housing continuum and private housing

				<p>expected to be complete by July 2017.</p> <p>The GN, through the Blueprint for Action on Housing, has committed to several actions intended to ensuring the GN can meet the housing needs of its employees, as an important step in addressing recruitment and retention issues, and supporting a decentralized public service.</p>	<p>market within Nunavut's communities.</p> <p>The NHC has begun the second stage of a review of its suite of Homeownership Programs, which will look at the efficacy of current programs and potential updates and gaps. The NHC will explore the potential to do targeted consultation with potential homeowners in the regional hubs and selected decentralized communities within fiscal year 2018-19.</p> <p>The NHC will renew efforts to collaborate with the Regional Inuit Associations on potential housing projects and block land development on municipal Inuit-owned lands, as well as on joint business cases to support federal lobbying for housing-related funds.</p> <p>The NHC continues to implement its Inuit Employment Plan. A central pillar of this plan involves working with the local housing organizations to establish a continuum of Inuit employment from the communities into the Corporation's district offices</p>
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					(Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Cape Dorset), headquarters (Arviat) and directorate (Iqaluit). This will be carried out in conjunction with improved support to the local housing organizations to improve their operational efficiencies and services.
	Increase flexibility in HR rules and processes in order to staff positions more efficiently and encourage local hire	New processes within HR and the GN are being taken into consideration with respect to the development of changes to the Human Resources Manual and staffing guidelines. Departments in collaboration with HR should identify new initiatives in hiring by looking to internship-like programs where individuals could be hired through part-time training and employment scenarios – examples include Finance Interns, Environment Conservation Officer Trainees and others that are outside of the normal hiring process	Ongoing	HRM 518 on Restricted Competitions was introduced in 2015. Restricted competitions enable Governments and public Nunavut (GN) departments and public bodies to limit the eligibility of certain candidates to specific criteria (restricted to Nunavut Inuit, internal competition, and restricted to Nunavut Inuit by location). This process supports the GN's commitment to the Priority Hiring Policy. EIA has developed 3 new initiatives (Career Broadening, Amaaqtaarniq Education Program, and Training Travel Fund) specifically for Inuit employees to gain skills and experience within the GN that would assist in securing indeterminate or advanced employment.	EIA's new Inuit employment initiatives (Career Broadening Program, Amaaqtaarniq Education Program, and Training Travel Fund) became available to GN Inuit employees in the fall of 2017.

<p>Promoting Inuit Employment</p>	<p>Include a targeted recruitment strategy for difficult to fill positions in the GN HR Strategy and its implementation plan</p>	<p>HR has created a recruitment unit to fill hard-to-fill positions and to focus on beneficiary hires and will utilize the unit in the development of a recruitment strategy incorporated into the GN Human Resources Strategy</p>	<p>April 2013</p>	<p>FIN has a Staffing and Recruitment division that focuses on hard-to-fill positions as well as Inuit hires. EIA is working on a GN Master Inuit Employment Plan (IEP) that will incorporate detailed departmental IEPs which will include how each department is planning to fill hard-to-fill positions with Inuit in the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>The Sivuliqtksat Internship Program continues to target specific entry-level professional and paraprofessional positions within the GN.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2017, there were eleven (11) interns in the Sivuliqtksat Internship Program. Five (5) more internships are currently being filled through the staffing process and a waitlist has been established to continually fill vacant internship positions in various departments.</p>	<p>The GN's Master Inuit Employment Plan (IEP) is being used by all departments and agencies in April 2018. EIA's Sivumuaqatigitt division will monitor all plans.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2018, there were ten (10) interns in the Sivuliqtksat Internship Program. Six (6) more internships are currently being filled through the staffing process and there are seven (7) applications in the waitlist.</p>
	<p>Expand the internship program to target specific entry level professional and paraprofessional positions within the GN</p>	<p>This was completed with an expansion of the internship program in early 2012.</p>	<p>Completed and ongoing review of the Sivuliqtksat program</p>		