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**6th Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 26**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

**Pages 1614 – 1670**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Tony Akoak**  
(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation; Minister of  
Energy*

**Joelie Kaernerck**  
(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Karen Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Daniel Qavvik**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible  
for Immigration; Minister responsible for the  
Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
Financial Management Board; Minister  
responsible for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

**Hon. Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Languages; Minister  
responsible for Seniors*

**Bobby Anavilok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Janet Brewster**  
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

**Hon. Pamela Gross**  
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister  
responsible for Nunavut Arctic College*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

*Minister of Health; Minister responsible  
for Suicide Prevention*

**Inagayuk Quqqiaq**  
(Netsilik)

**Alexander Sammurtok**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
Inlet)

**Solomon Malliki**  
(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**George Hikes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of  
the Whole*

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
of Human Resources;*

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Justice; Minister  
responsible for Labour; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
Corporation*

**Hon. David Joanasic**  
(South Baffin)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickers, Hon. David Joanasi, Mr. Joellie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Alexander Sammurtook, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>House commenced at 10:00

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak) (interpretation): Good morning. Before we start, Mr. Anavilok, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): I say “good morning” to Inuit and all Nunavummiut on our last sitting day.

(interpretation ends) Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers’ Statements**

**Minister’s Statement 123 – 6(2):  
Newly Appointed Chair to the  
Utility Rates Review Council of  
Nunavut**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow members and

Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings this morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Nunavut Utility Rates Council, I rise today to inform my colleagues and Nunavummiut of how proud I am to welcome Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk to the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk is no stranger to this House and the URRC is very excited to have for the very first time a woman chairperson.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Utility Rates Review Council is an advisory body. It makes recommendations which take into consideration Nunavut’s vast territory and remote communities.

And as all Members in this House know, Mr. Speaker, each community runs on individual power plants without a grid to backup and distribute electricity. Together with our extreme environmental conditions, this is comparatively an exceptional example, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore it is in this capacity that I am confident that with Ms. Ell-Kanayuk’s skills, the URRC will continue to serve for and on behalf of the good people of Nunavut to ensure that electricity in Nunavut is delivered fair and just with reasonable rates.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anthony Rose for his service on the council for over 10 years. He was very passionate about his role as chair and evolved the council into what it is today.



Lastly, Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Rose and wishing Ms. Ell-Kanayuk the very best and thank her for stepping forward to offer her service once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 124 – 6(2): 2022  
Simata Pitsiulak Aviation  
Scholarship Recipients**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Economic Development and Transportation is committed to building Nunavut's transportation workforce by promoting careers in our aviation industries. The Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship supports this objective by providing grants to Nunavut students actively enrolled in an aviation-based program area of study.

The scholarship also supports the department's Inuit Employment Plan by increasing the number of Nunavut Inuit aviation specialists available to serve in the department's Transportation Branch.

This year I am very pleased to report that five impressive young Nunavummiut, all in school and working toward successfully achieving their aviation-based programs, have been chosen by the selection committee.

The successful scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Derek Fredlund (Aircraft Maintenance Engineering)

- Ethan Kane Komaksiutiksak (Aircraft Maintenance Engineering)
- Jamila Gordon (Commercial Pilot Training)
- Kadin Copland (Commercial Pilot Training)
- Ronald Oolooyuk (Mechanical Engineering)

Each of these talented individuals will receive a scholarship valued at \$5,000 to help towards the cost of their aviation-based studies.

Please join me in recognizing this year's recipients of the Simata Pitsiulak Aviation Scholarship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Minister's Statement 125 – 6(2):  
James Bell Donation to Nunavut  
Archives**

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleague. Nunavummiut, I say "good morning" to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share about the donation of the career papers, files and photographs of the late James Bell, or better known as Jim, a long-time *Nunatsiaq News* Editor and Reporter.

As you may be aware, Mr. Bell passed away last year.

Mr. Speaker, a total of 10 boxes of historic material was generously donated from his private collection and they now reside in the Nunavut Archives. These records reflect his 35-year history with *Nunatsiaq News*. The manuscripts also included in this donation demonstrate his passion for education in Nunavut and the journalism courses he taught at Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, the James Bell archive is augmented by his numerous photographic prints that feature his work in Nunavut. The donation also includes his many awards and certificates of excellence in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, the James Bell donation is now part of our historic archives.

Please join me in remembering Jim Bell, who had a keen interest in this House and who kept us all on our feet. His dedication to journalism was admirable and we appreciate his contributions to the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 126 – 6(2): NHC  
New Board Members**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as members recall, earlier this year we put out a call to replace board members whose terms have expired. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Kathy Hanson of Iqaluit and Mr. David

Evalik of Cambridge Bay for serving on the Nunavut Housing board.

I would also like to welcome back Mr. John Hussey of Arctic Bay and Mr. Peter Tapatai of Baker Lake, who are reappointed for an additional three years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also inform you that we have two new members from Nunavut who joined the board on November 1. First is Mr. Allan Rumbolt of Sanikiluaq, who is no stranger to this Assembly, and Ms. Emma Pauloosie of Gjoa Haven for a three-year team.

Mr. Speaker, the board of directors plays a critical role at the NHC. The board of directors provides strategic oversight of the NHC's governance issues and oversees the corporate risk management functions. I'm positive that the current board members have significant leadership experience and familiarity with housing issues, including in-depth experience in construction and business management in their communities to guide us through our Nunavut 3000 housing strategy in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I wish them luck, as I know they will have a busy year ahead. I look forward to working with the board as we help lead the corporation in developing meaningful solutions to address Nunavut's housing crisis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister's Statement 127 – 6(2):  
Waste Oil Pilot Project: Arviat,  
Cambridge Bay, and Pond Inlet**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a correction in my ministerial statement on November 4, 2022 concerning the Waste Oil Pilot Project: Arviat, Cambridge Bay, and Pond Inlet. The waste for Arviat was not shipped south due to ice conditions. My department will aim to target next year as soon as possible for removal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 128 – 6(2):  
Residential School Resources and  
Teachers Guide Created**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Nunavummiut and everyone here in the House this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share information about a new Nunavut-made resource on residential schools that has been provided to our educators. The Qinuisarniq or "resiliency" book series, published and produced by Inhabit Media, consists of stories by residential school survivors from across the Canadian Arctic. To support our educators with incorporating these materials into their instruction, our department has developed a comprehensive teacher resource to accompany each book.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Qinuisarniq series is to help educate Nunavummiut about the history and

impacts of residential schools, policies of assimilation, and other colonial acts that have affected Nunavummiut. The curriculum was carefully written to be age-appropriate and incorporates personal testimonies from residential school survivors.

Mr. Speaker, these resources were sent to all Nunavut schools for the Truth and Reconciliation Week. They align with the Department of Education's commitment to ensure materials that are used in Nunavut schools are reflective of our society.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy of residential schools has created long-lasting impacts on Inuit and our communities, which are still being felt today. For additional support, each teacher resource also includes a list of mental health resources that teachers and students can access.  
*Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Minister's Statement 129 – 6(2): First  
Nations and Inuit Policing  
Program**

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and the people of Baker Lake. I wish you a nice day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share that, after years of lobbying, the Government of Canada has committed to funding the expansion of the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program into Nunavut. Today I and the Minister responsible for Public Safety

Canada, Minister Mendicino, have announced our agreement in principle. Under this new partnership, the Government of Canada has committed to resourcing the program in Nunavut in a way that will make up for our previous exclusion.

The First Nations and Inuit Policing Program will supplement our existing policing complement under the current Territorial Police Service Agreement. This program is cost-shared at a rate of 52 percent federal and 48 percent territorial, which will allow our territory to increase resources over the next three years at a more sustainable rate. With this, we hope to see the end of all two-person detachments in our territory.

The First Nations and Inuit Police Program officers are given a mandate that is developed in consultation with the community they serve. The focus of this program is on community engagement, crime prevention, and community safety. This means Nunavummiut will have more of a say in how policing is conducted in their communities.

These new, community-focused Royal Canadian Mounted Police members mark an important step in our efforts to increase community engagement and investment in public safety and a very positive development in our work to build reconciliation between Inuit communities and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the final stages of finalizing this agreement. I look forward to sharing the details of the rollout with my colleagues in the very near future.

I want to thank Public Safety Canada, my Department of Justice officials, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police “V” Division, and the previous Ministers of Justice who all worked very hard to bring the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Minister’s Statement 130 – 6(2):  
Baffin Island Caribou Total  
Allowable Harvest**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight that there was an increase to the Baffin Island caribou total allowable harvest from 250 to 350 tags for the 2022-23 harvesting season.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, caribou are an important source of food for many families on Baffin Island. This decision will balance people’s immediate needs with the need to protect caribou for future generations.

I’m pleased to report that of the 350 tags, up to 75 may be used to harvest female caribou. Community allocations have been received from Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, including the additional tags for the 2022-23 harvest season.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to engage co-management partners in research on Baffin Island caribou. Research results will continue to be shared with communities and co-

management partners to ensure sustainability of caribou for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements.  
Member for Aivilik Mr. Malliki.

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

#### **Member's Statement 156 – 6(2): Arctic Winter Games Hockey Athletes**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my constituents and my fellow MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the territorial hockey team selected to go to the Arctic Winter Games, as several constituents of mine were selected. They are: Isaiah Harron, Nolan Nakoolak, Richard Pameolik coming from Coral Harbour, with one player from Naujaat also selected Regan Jr. Kopak. They will be representing us at the Arctic Winter Games in Wood Buffalo, playing hockey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 157 – 6(2): Appreciation of Fall Sitting**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to voice my gratitude to many people involved in our sessions as we are on our last day here. I am very thankful as we delve into stressful challenging issues during our

sessions while sitting in the chambers, but we usually surpass these challenges.

Additionally, residents throughout Iqaluit continually welcome us here, and our loved ones whom we have left behind are not a source of worry, and we know they are safe and sound. They also patiently await the end of our meetings, and for that I wanted to express my appreciation vocally this morning.

Indeed, I wanted to just voice my thanks and to our interpreters who work patiently, and I appreciate their abilities, as this day is set aside for stating our thanks, so I voice my thanks to all. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Arviat South Mr. Savikataaq.

#### **Member's Statement 158 – 6(2): Admonishment of the Executive Council of Nunavut**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, yesterday a motion was put forward to admonish the Executive Council and it was passed, but I fear that it's still falling on deaf ears.

When the Premier spoke to the motion, he spoke, but he did not speak to the motion. He spoke about the mandate. Regular members have no problems with the mandate. We were all there to endorse it. He spoke about all the houses that are needed in Nunavut that Nunavut

needs. The regular members agree that there are houses that are needed by Nunavummiut. I fear that the Premier didn't read the motion either in black and white because he didn't address the issues that were brought up. It appears that we are still not being heard and that's sad.

Another point that I would like to make is that yesterday when I questioned the Premier about whether he was satisfied with the performance level of all his ministers, the Premier would not answer in this House, yet in the interview with *Nunatsiaq News*, the Premier said that he has no concerns with any of his ministers. Mr. Speaker, that's the question that this House wanted to hear yesterday, but we didn't hear it; we heard from the media.

Mr. Speaker, the Executive Council is accountable to the House, not to the media. It's good to have media on your side. The media is there to get the messaging out, but everyone in this House is accountable in this House. I would just like to reiterate that.

I would like to end on a positive note. Today is our last sitting day until we meet again in the middle of February. While I have this opportunity too, I would like to wish every member here an early merry Christmas and all Nunavummiut, everyone have a happy and safe merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

### **Member's Statement 159 – 6(2): Appreciation of Iisqaq Staff**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time during this morning, I want to announce this information which contains some very notable news, about the recognition of the Iisqaq centre in Clyde River. Their staff constantly provide very good programming and this one initiative which they planned out related to a on-the-land program specifically on healing services.

They planned out this program and provided training for the counsellors for many years related to Inuit societal laws and rules, especially geared towards addiction issues, either for alcohol, gambling, opioids, or other psychotic drugs used in various lifestyles.

Now, what I take great pride in this program which runs for 28 days, and that is the targeted date, as it will be situated outside of the community of Clyde River, operated by the group, and it will be called "Tajjuujat" or "Tajjuujaq".

(interpretation ends) They bring in Inuit clients from the Qikiqtaaluk region to the camp (interpretation) and that is what they wanted to conduct in practicum (interpretation ends) and it was built outside of Clyde River. Participants are in the program for 28 days and receive support and help for addictions.

(interpretation) Due to their hard work, I am very proud of the organizers who brought this together and planned out the program "Tajjuujaq" geared towards reconciliation with Inuit workers and counsellors who operate the camp. The clientele are from various Inuit communities attending this program.

(interpretation ends) They have committed their time in helping clients and working away from home for a month and clients from other communities come from. (interpretation ends) Ilisaqsivik has just finished its first run of the Tajjuujaq program during the month of October. All the staff of the program were Inuit, including facilitators and counsellors.

(interpretation) I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you.

I am exceedingly proud of the community of Clyde River, as they are very resourceful and innovative, and whom I am proud to represent. Now, I want to name the people whom I want to publicly thank, as I am proud of their efforts to plan this out, and their counsellors. They are Meeka Paniloo from Clyde River, Martin Iqaqrialu from Clyde River, Jeannie Mike from Pangnirtung, Pitsiula Michael from Kimmirut, Elisapee Quassa from Iqaluit, and Naomi Enook from Pond Inlet.

These people completed their action plans and completed their initial 28-day healing program for those Inuit fighting addictions and that which has been demanded by Inuit for many years. These counsellors and the staff totally implemented this program even though it was stressful, and I wanted to speak to this issue briefly as I am quite honoured

by their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's all celebrate this event with them.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

**Member's Statement 160 – 6(2):  
Condolences to the Hanson Family**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to very quickly pass on my sincere condolences to the Hanson family.

Mr. Speaker, from Ann to Bob and the rest of the family, I think we would all be hard-pressed to find such a prominent family that have contributed so much to the positive development and just a positive attitude around people all across this territory, but especially here in Iqaluit.

I was very blessed to meet Bob very early on upon moving to Iqaluit and I have the utmost respect for him and I am going to miss him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Condolences to the family.

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Member's Statement 161 – 6(2):  
Nunavut Speed Skating  
Participants**

**Ms. Brewster** (interpretation): Good morning, Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to pass on my condolences to the Hanson family. What a huge loss that is and what an amazing legacy he leaves behind.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell Nunavummiut that on Thursday, 18 skaters and five coaches from the Nunavut Speed Skating Association will be travelling to Charlottetown to participate in the 30th Anniversary Atlantic Cup for speed skating. I'm so happy that the club has so many incredible volunteers who have made the world go round, really, and to parents and families that wake up extra early on Saturdays, this is why we do it.

I hope we have a winter without any snow on Friday night so that parents don't have to wake up and shovel before they leave for the arena at 7 in the morning. If it does snow, what works for this, a pro tip from this speed skating mom, is to convince your child that shovelling snow is a great warm up.

I would like to wish our skaters good luck. I hope they have fun and a safe trip. Skate fast, turn left. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Member's Statement 162 – 6(2):  
Representing Constituents**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Amittuq, Nunavummiut, members, ministers, and visitors in the gallery. Welcome here.

I am rising this morning, Mr. Speaker, to voice my gratitude once again, firstly to my children who are home alone, since their mother is escorting her father for medical reasons to Ottawa. I appreciate your patience, and the people who were caring for them, I am effusing my appreciation to them. I will be going home tomorrow. You are always on my mind.

This morning I rise to speak about our fall session here. It was quite difficult this time around for me, but I had to endure for the sake of my constituents, to express their concerns and to speak to the issues they conveyed publicly in this House.

The complaints that local Inuit express, their concerns are why I speak about the ongoing matters they face, and that is what I try to accomplish. I use my traditional dialect, and I speak about matters dear to my constituents, and I wanted to provide some background this morning to summarize our session and the fact I had some difficulty this time around.

I imagine I was not the only one suffering. In my opinion, it takes a toll mentally and physically and created some complications here. Albeit, as MLAs, we have to take the hardships and impracticalities we face, although hard, not impossible as it leads to



contemplation and exploration of options.

These next three years, where we will meet quarterly will allow us to grasp some wisdom by experiencing stressful situations, and wherever you hold membership in, such as hamlet councils, housing boards, these kinds of local governance structures, I urge our youth to attempt membership in them to begin your journey towards public service, as it teaches you board governance skills, especially when you must stand in front of public avenues, in trying to verbalize the wishes of our constituents, and some people assume that this is an easy skill to learn.

However, a lack of public speaking skills can lead to difficulties when trying to do that. It may seem that we, as MLAs, just stand up to speak, but no, it takes preparation to be able to present issues on behalf of those we represent and envisage how we will say the correct wordage. How will I phrase this concern into an understandable question?

Those are what we must consider when trying to speak over this fall session. I want to thank all my constituents of the Amittuq riding, both in Igloolik and Sanirajak. I appreciate your support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 163 – 6(2):  
National Co-op Week**

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation):  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I

want to announce that one of my grandchildren is celebrating their birthday, so I wish them a happy birthday, and that is Kerwin Leon Quassa.

What I rise about today (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, across Canada, the week of October 20 was recognized as Co-op Week and I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important contributions that the local Co-ops make in our communities throughout the territory.

While 2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of Arctic Co-operatives, local Co-ops have been building and contributing to our territory since the first Co-op was formed in Kinngait in 1959. Together Co-ops pursue a vision of people working together to improve their social and economic well-being. A Co-op is not a store or a building; it is a group of people united by a common purpose.

In my home community of Igloolik, we might have lost our store to a catastrophic fire, but we did not lose our Co-op. Our people are building back stronger and look forward to the grand reopening of the new Co-op store in 2023.

Please join me in recognizing the important community contributions of Co-ops and happy belated Co-op Week. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 164 – 6(2):  
Dismal Canada Post Services in  
Rankin Inlet Continue**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I also feel for the loss experienced by the residents of Iqaluit, as they lost a man who made tremendous contributions both for Nunavummiut and Iqalummiut especially. I empathize with the family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the people of Iqaluit for being so hospitable and welcoming, such that it feels like being at home, due to the Inuit being so friendly and welcome. I thank you all. When you work here, you long to go home, but because of the hospitality of the people of Iqaluit, you don't really miss home all that much most of the time.

Mr. Speaker, last week when we first sat, I mentioned the post office in Rankin Inlet and often you don't receive your mail because they are not made available and during this time when we start planning towards the Christmas season, people want to order their gifts or other items in advance. Now we will see a lot of delays because we often see mail taking such a long time to arrive.

I know of some people who have waited over two months without ever receiving a notification card indicating that their parcels have arrived.

Mr. Speaker, Canada Post should be supporting every community in Rankin Inlet. People sometimes wait for their cheques or whatever and many wait for their mail for a long time.

Canada Post should hear X0C 0G0 is Rankin Inlet's postal code. I hope their upper management visits the community. I'm not putting down the local post office workers. They just cannot keep up with the mail and I urge that people start receiving their packages as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

**Member's Statement 165 – 6(2):  
Update on Constituency Offices**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning, Nunavummiut, and people of South Baffin. Prior to my statement, I wish to share my thoughts with, and to pass on my condolences to Ann Meekitjuk Hanson and family, also to her relatives who live in Kimmirut, who may be the most affected.

Mr. Speaker, during our last day of our fall sitting, I would like to remind everyone that the constituency offices in Kinngait and Kimmirut are usually open in the mornings. The phone number is 897-8753 in Kinngait in the morning if you need to call. Also in Kimmirut, the office opens in the afternoon, and the number there is 939-2778. The constituents in Kinngait and Kimmirut can call the numbers I just stated at any time.

However, Mr. Speaker, during this fall, this announcement was made, and I want to ensure residents are aware that the boundary commission or (interpretation ends) Electoral Boundaries Commission (interpretation) which residents of South Baffin wanted, and this will be useful

when the electoral boundaries are reviewed by the commissioners. I just wished to ensure this was heard again, and we anticipate that recommendations will accrue from this review to the Legislative assembly.

However, Mr. Speaker, all of my legislative colleagues along with Nunavummiut know winter is coming, and the month of December is arriving, and I hope families will be able to gather with their relatives and fellow residents in their communities. I hope everyone will enjoy the Christmas holidays and the upcoming New Year joyfully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 166 – 6(2):  
Condolences to Bob Hanson and  
Family**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation):  
Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for acknowledging me. This man, Bob Hanson, leaves a big void to us all, due to his tremendous contributions to the community.

I also wish to recognize his family as they were my constituents, and the late Bob and his wife, Ann, were married for over 56 years, with an anniversary on October 22, and he left a big legacy to both Iqaluit and Apex.

Niaqunnguut will never be the same again, understandably as he did everything in his power to assist Iqalummiut and the whole of Nunavut, due to his immense contributions.

Our thoughts are with his daughters and we offer our prayers for them. We will continue to pray for them, but I wanted to acknowledge the person, although he has passed on and Ann and her daughters are in our thoughts as they endure the mourning process. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers from here on in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 167 – 6(2):  
Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Elections**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to Nunavummiut and those in Cambridge Bay. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Stanley Anablak for his years of service with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and wish him all the best in his retirement. The announcement will come out today for the nominations, which closed last night for the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and I wish all those running all the best, and I wish everybody great and happy holidays, and Merry Christmas. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 168 – 6(2):  
Successful Narwhal Hunting  
Season in Arctic Bay**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, to the Hanson family and their relatives, they are in the forefront of our thoughts.

While I rise, I want to briefly mention that Arctic Bay residents had a fairly good year for harvesting narwhal with many hunters catching tusked males, which allowed them the capital to purchase big ticket items such as snowmobiles, ATVs and the like. The high prices allow for that.

I am happy for their successful hunt as I take pride in good hunters who get side benefits from harvesting their subsistence food sources, as even fairly young hunters were going to the store to purchase snowmobiles and ATVs.

What was brought up as a concern, however, was the stores who sell the vehicles, would ask for full payment from the hunters, that the snowmobiles weren't available, only that a down payment with a monthly payment was the preferred option for purchasing the machines. I disliked that gouging because that is how the stores increase their interest rates when you use the monthly payment option.

The North West Company depends on these exorbitant interest rates for their profits, and this practice hurts our hunters, who try to purchase the least expensive option, especially with gasoline prices rising, and hunters who share their catch feed many families. Nonetheless, it seems the North West Company is only about profits since they

strong-arm residents to take the expensive route, and this is meeting disapproval in many quarters.

Furthermore, the hunters who are being asked to take this option, have the right to complain to (interpretation ends) consumer affairs (interpretation) and submit written and verbal complaints if the stores are asking you to only use the monthly payment plan, as they should not force this option on anyone. In defence of the hunters, and to ensure they are aware of their rights.

If any other Nunavummiut are being made to use this option, you have rights and the ability. No store should force a buyer into this more expensive option, especially if they have the funds to purchase a snowmobile immediately or even an ATV. I wanted to voice my disconcertment on this development.

I hope you all enjoy your Christmas holidays. Hopefully, we will all be in good health and see each other again in January, my fellow MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Member's Statement 169 – 6(2):  
Successful Fall Caribou Hunt in  
Baker Lake**

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently in the last month, Baker Lake experienced a vast herd of caribou migrating past their community, so numerous that it was impossible to try to do a head count, just a mass of animals which was

heartwarming to see. It was a tremendous sight, and a once in a lifetime experience.

We heard that people who had caught caribou willingly shared the meat with other families, requesting less fortunate families via radio and CB to pick up meat at certain houses, and this was quite a joyous occasion to see. It was especially notable since families who weren't able to hunt or who didn't have any hunting equipment like an ATV could go to other houses to pick up sustenance and that was also endearing.

As well, within my family Akuppirniq, or "Akuup" which is my endearment term for my daughter, caught her first caribou on her first multi-party hunt and this was a pleasurable experience, and since she is getting older and working harder, I hope she continues to harvest caribou with lots of back fat, obviously, and I wanted to relay that story here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

**Member's Statement 170 – 6(2):  
Working Together for the  
Betterment of Nunavut**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to Nunavummiut and Kuglukturmiut, as well as my fellow MLAs and I also wish to send my condolences to the family who lost a loved one, and they are also in my thoughts. One cannot stop death and the passing of our loved ones.

I listened to the news yesterday, and I saw the story about my colleague on this side practically scolding the Premiers and the executive, and I felt that the story resonated with the feelings of dissatisfaction with the actions of the cabinet.

In the news, it seemed to show that there is a gap between the work of the MLAs and the results of decisions which I am learning, and that one must work extremely hard to represent our constituents, and I wanted to state that in Nunavut there are many families who have relatives in other communities.

If we work together here, as a family and in partnership, that it will present a better outlook publicly and to ensure that we do not fight in public as it was portrayed in the news, but through consensus to build agreement, which is why we as MLAs should work with the ministers and the cabinet, which can result in good results for Nunavummiut.

Many of us are related throughout the regions of Nunavut, and they are all supporting us to work towards a common goal of a better future and serving the people of Nunavut. I just wanted to express my thoughts on this matter, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements.  
Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

**Member's Statement 171 – 6(2):  
Appreciation of Fall Sitting**

**Mr. Qavvik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good late morning to my fellow MLAs.

First of all, I wish to express my gratitude to the residents of Iqaluit for their hospitality and welcoming us wherever we go. Whenever I walk around the city, it seems everyone recognizes me and ask if I am from the community of Sanikiluaq, and when I concur, they say they know of me, and I am of the mind that all the Inuit here are very welcoming, so I want to express my gratitude first of all.

I also wish to thank the young servers or (interpretation end) pages (interpretation) Alexis and Jacquinita, along with the others who are working in the back, our interpreters whom I wish to thank for being here, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to voice my appreciation to everyone involved, hence my reason for rising for my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, that is all.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to all and I didn't make a statement as most of what I wanted to express has already been stated, so I share in thanking everyone involved.

I wanted to recognize my spouse, as my husband also has his own workload to undertake, however, his undying support is appreciated, albeit not publicly visible but he provides tremendous support to

me, and he helps me to stand strongly. His patience is outstanding, and that applies to my family and relatives as well and even though they are not present here, our children especially. I wanted to publicly express my gratitude to my husband, Andrew Nakashuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please welcome him warmly.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to be able to rise today and to also welcome this person although he was just recognized now, but he lives within my constituency, so I would like to welcome Andrew Nakashuk to this House as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 254 – 6(2): Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems very fitting that Mr. Nakashuk is in the House here today as I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment regarding the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment is the Government of

Nunavut's lead on the draft land use plan. Mr. Speaker, I haven't been able to attend any of the hearings. There is one coming up here in Iqaluit, I believe in the next week or two that hopefully I will be able to participate in.

I do have a question to the minister. It doesn't seem like there's a lot of clarity around the Government of Nunavut's position on the draft land use plan. I would just like to get clarification from the minister on what the Government of Nunavut's position is with the draft land use plan and mineral development across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are public consultations that are taking place from November 14 to 19 in Iqaluit and then January 10, 2023 is when the final record will be closing.

Right now, as a government, we are listening to what the public consultations are taking in, in terms of the latest draft land use plan and through those, as signatories to the draft land use plan, we will be making a decision at the appropriate time when the three parties will have to determine whether or not to approve the draft land use plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's response to some extent; however, as the Government of Nunavut does make presentations at these hearings, there has

been a lack of clarity brought to my attention on the position of the Government of Nunavut, especially from a caribou standpoint, impacting mineral development opportunities.

One of the concerns that has been brought to my attention is that without this specific information, even from Government of Nunavut biologists, who are not appearing at these hearings, is concerning to people out in the public that don't have an indication of what impact could really be made on caribou habitat and safe areas. I would like to get clarification from the minister on how the Government of Nunavut is anticipating mineral development across the territory in caribou protected lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very fundamental question, questions that are being asked at these hearings and one that we're listening to, and we'll try and determine what to do with that. With the caribou, it's a fine balance of trying to be at the sustainable development level and doing mineral extraction. As a government we try and find that balance.

With the draft land use plan that's in place and that's there, it shows where the red areas are, where protection is being sought, and where the minerals are. Those two are the very discussions where the people of Nunavut are having lively discussions at these public hearings. We're trying to listen to them. Once those are done, I, as the minister and signatory, will be seeking support from my cabinet colleagues on what

steps we'll need to take. I don't want to pre-judge what the public is discussing regarding this matter, but this is one that we definitely are keeping an eye on in terms of what those debates are like right now through these public consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's position of how complicated this is, especially when we're talking about land use in caribou sensitive areas. It's a very divisive topic. From the one hand, full open the gates for development; on the other hand it's no development to protect the land and animals. I do realize the complicated position of a land use plan that has been ongoing for, at least, 17 years now.

My question to the minister: when it comes to finalizing the Nunavut Land Use Plan with the Government of Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Government of Nunavut, how confident is the minister that a Nunavut Land Use Plan will finally be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always optimistic, and I have full confidence in terms of these consultations and the draft land use that's taking place. As the member stated, it has been going on for a long time. I think from the three parties, we want to see closure on this particular file. Without having a land use plan; now, by

default, what we're doing now is what's happening.

We need that land use plan for Nunavut in order for certainty to be provided for our people, when it comes to protection for the mineral extractions, for the hydro, for a lot of development that we want to see in Nunavut. We need those levels of certainty. I am confident with the three parties that need to sign it, that we're eager to see that plan completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

### **Question 255 – 6(2): Mining Sector**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be directed to the (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Mines.

(interpretation) I wanted to speak to this issue, which were stated previously by the minister during our spring sitting here in this House, and as the minister is aware, the mining sector plays an important role for us in the Kitikmeot region.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, this year's Budget Address indicated that "To position Nunavut as an attractive and welcoming jurisdiction for mineral exploration and investment, our proposed budget includes \$1.0 million for a new mineral exploration program called Discover, Invest, and Grow, or DIG...the proposed DIG program is designed to encourage mineral exploration by the junior mining sector, which has the potential to support more and better job opportunities for Nunavummiut."



Can the minister update the Legislative Assembly on the status of this new program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy has been approved and the program has been launched. Today I don't have the details as to whether it has been accessed yet, but that program is now up and running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the explanation, minister. (interpretation ends) This year's Budget Address also indicated that "the government will refresh the strategic plans for sustainable economic development and diversification in all sectors, including mining."

Can the minister provide a clear timeline for when the new plan for the mining sector will be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we're going into sector-specific strategies, a lot of work is being done right now. For the mining side, updating the Parnautit Strategy is underway. I don't have a firm timeline for when the strategy will be done, but if it is done, I definitely will be publicizing

it to Nunavummiut, and in the future tabling it in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Early during our sitting here in the Legislative Assembly, I spoke about my attendance at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Can the minister update the House on what initiatives his department is currently working on in partnership with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association in relation to the mining sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have worked in conjunction with the various regional Inuit associations, for example, on the recently opened gold mine, and we negotiated a (interpretation ends) memorandum of understanding (interpretation) dealing with these types of initiatives.

Furthermore, I made an announcement in this House recently about the Gray's Bay project, where the Kitikmeot Inuit Association is the lead organization. Recently I held a teleconference with the acting executive members, outlining my commitment to work with them, with the GNWT and our government on this project led by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

They have indicated their wishes to construct an all-weather road, and with

their project proposal, we have searched for different options to see where we can get the funding for this project. I want to ensure we conduct a thorough review with them, and I have voiced that interest with them to this day. These are just two of the issues I bring up, but there are other areas included as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Question 256 – 6(2): Power Requirements for New Marine Infrastructure**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our morning session, I keep feeling like shaking, as if I am going to be threatened verbally, so I am a bit leery of the ministers this morning.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister regarding the marine infrastructure, currently as we toured the facility previously here in Iqaluit and this led to some questions regarding my constituency community of Qikiqtarjuaq and the planning process for marine infrastructure projects. I want to voice some of my deeply held concerns and to clarify my own understanding.

My questions will be directed to the (interpretation ends) Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As the minister is aware, the community of Qikiqtarjuaq is very pleased that major new marine infrastructure is moving forward. The new facility will

greatly enhance the ability of residents of my constituency to gain training and employment opportunities in the commercial fishing sector and the “blue economy.”

Mr. Speaker, information published by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that the new facility will have an impact on demand for utilities, including power.

Can the minister clarify how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on the design of the new facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. It is an exciting venture to look forward to and it would be very good for the community. To date I have not had any discussions with my ministerial colleague on that in detail. That’s as much as I can provide right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I encourage you to make yourself familiar with this important file.

However, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, information published by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation also indicates that

one of the major project components of the new facility is a bulk fuel storage and pump station.

Can the minister clarify how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services on this element of the facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a huge project and would require the collaboration, as you mentioned, between the three departments: me, Economic Development and Transportation, and Community and Government Services.

For this question, it would be best posed to the Department of Community and Government Services as we advise Community and Government Services of our requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister work towards community development? It has to be a concern and that he should make this a priority due to the largeness of this project.

For my final question, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) as the minister is aware, new ports have been under construction in both Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. From the Qulliq Energy

Corporation's perspective, what lessons have been learned from these projects that can be applied to the new marine facility in Qikiqtarjuaq? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Projects of this magnitude always gives new learning opportunities, such as how much of your power is actually needed. We can have experts estimate how much extra power would be needed, how much extra diesel fuel would need to be brought in or burned off annually. We take all those into consideration and trying as best as we can and of course we always try to include contingencies to make sure that we don't come up short. That's what I can answer for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

#### **Question 257 – 6(2): Human Resources Management during COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, when the state of the public health emergency was lifted in April of this year, the government made a number of changes to its operations and their practices.

(interpretation ends) Information issued by the Department of Human Resources in April of this year indicated that Government of Nunavut employees will "...no longer be required to complete Appendix C, Employee Self-assessment Tool, each day prior to physically reporting to the workplace. It is still recommended that employees stay home when sick. However, employees will be required to use banked leave credits when accessing Special 08 leave."

Mr. Speaker, this type of special leave is classified as "quarantine leave."

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have asked me to seek clarification on this policy. Can the minister clearly explain why the government requires employees who are in quarantine due to COVID to use their banked leave credits? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. I'm glad to answer that question. During the COVID pandemic, the unvaccinated were numerous, and there was a concern for Nunavummiut and the spread of the virus within the communities. The Department of Health, while looking at Canada as a whole, made the decision to lift the state of the emergency. We encouraged vaccination.

There are different aspects to COVID, including the emergence of new variants, but it is no longer at an emergency level where we are ordered to stay home. The government was not as concerned for

those who could work out of their homes, but due to work that was been done in this area, employees were required to use their sick leave, even if it was COVID due to it not being a health emergency anymore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Nakashuk. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although we are no longer in a state of public health emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

In cases where a Government of Nunavut employee is required to stay home to care for a child who has COVID, can the minister clarify what leave options are open to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. They can use their sick leave. Due to sickness and children pulled from daycares, employees have to speak with their supervisors regarding the options for different sorts of leave if they have no more sick leave left, and to work with the Department of Human Resources to work through their supervisor to look at options. Currently we are using sick leave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the clarification. (interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, in October of this year the Department of Health issued a request for proposals to undertake a “COIVD Pandemic Response Review.” I am looking forward to the report from this review being tabled in the House.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Human Resources confirm if her department will be undertaking a similar review, and can she indicate approximately how many work hours were lost to the government as a consequence of employees being away due to COVID? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. A date hasn't been set as to when it would be brought out and we haven't discussed whether or not it would even be brought out, but it would be good to get that information because we were highly impacted by the pandemic here in Nunavut. If a review will happen, I will let you know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 258 – 6(2): Partnership with Inuit Heritage Trust**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also feel somewhat cautious today, but I'll proceed with my question.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage, and they concern her department's partnership with the Inuit Heritage Trust.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit involvement in the process of identifying, protecting, and conserving archeological sites and archival materials is an extremely important initiative.

During last Thursday's sitting of the House, the minister made a statement announcing a partnership between the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Inuit Heritage Trust. The minister announced that her department worked closely with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to secure *Nunavut Agreement* implementation funding in relation to articles concerning archaeology and collections.

Can the minister confirm exactly how much funding was secured through the *Nunavut Agreement* implementation funding and can she elaborate on the nature and scope of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question. The work started quite a long time ago, working towards the creation of a heritage centre. (interpretation ends) Actually, in 2015, the GN received an estimate for the design phase. (interpretation) It would have been very expensive if it was built like that, so (interpretation ends) Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has pledged \$5 million for

the creation of a heritage centre and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association has pledged \$5 million for the creation of a heritage centre. (interpretation) That's because of the way it is set up. They're compiling information to get a cost estimate for the proposed heritage centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I go to my next question, I would just like the minister to confirm that that \$5 million is related to that partnership with the Inuit Heritage Trust that includes archaeological sites and materials.

Mr. Speaker, in the minister's statement she indicated that her department is working with the Inuit Heritage Trust to carry out heritage resources and collections training for Nunavummiut.

Can the minister confirm her department's projected timeline for this work, and can she clarify where the training will take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture and Heritage provides funding that can be used for training in archaeological work that is being done in different communities where they will be searching for artefacts. Archaeologists can get help from Inuit students, and they receive funding for that. This will continue, and I can't say exactly when the end date

will be, but the funding is available for those purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still not clear on whether or not that *Nunavut Agreement* implementation funding is going towards the development of a heritage centre, or if it's going towards a larger scoped project.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support initiatives that are dedicated to the preservation and protection of Inuit cultural heritage. I understand that recognized qualifications are needed to perform certain roles, and I appreciate when training is made available to increase the involvement of Inuit in the management of Nunavut's heritage. My hope is that all those interested in pursuing a career in the archaeology and heritage resource management field have the opportunity to participate in such training.

Can the minister describe how her department will ensure that this training will be accessible to all Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. These are two different projects. One is for heritage management. There is training going on right now in that regard, and it will be a three year training program. It would be in-house, like a curator. There is another program that can be used for

youth, where they assist archaeologists and this is for archaeological work. They can submit proposals to get funding from the Department of Culture and Heritage. The Heritage Branch is provided funding from the Cultural Branch.

The Heritage Management Training Program is for three years. There is planning being done for the heritage centre for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Question 259 – 6(2): Capital Investments in Smaller Communities**

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services in regard to capital investments.

Now that the Legislative Assembly has approved the government's 2023-24 capital budget, let us all look ahead. Perhaps I want to look ahead. As the minister knows, we represent smaller communities in our constituency. He represents the community of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, and I represent the community of Sanirajak. I'm sure the minister is aware of where I'm coming from when it comes to these capital investments.

I would like to make the minister understand that when it comes to these capital investments in smaller, underserved communities, let me be clear again, underserved communities, my first question is: can the minister clearly explain how the government's

capital planning process will be changed to give these a higher priorities to smaller have-not communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, our capital planning process has undergone some evolution since the territory was formed, and I think it is fitting that we maybe take a relook at how things occur in planning our capital projects going forward, especially in light of the recent environment we have been seeing in the construction field over the last couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, in prioritizing our capital projects, we do look at every single community's needs and what we come forward with is a reflection of what the needs are at this time. We do have the biggest capital budget that we have requested in the history of Nunavut, and I think that's something to be proud of is that we're going to do more in this area.

Mr. Speaker, the capital planning process is rigorous in that we look at every single community, small and large, but we do recognize also that there have been significant financial approvals and some that are not through this Assembly; for example, here in Iqaluit over \$200 million for the water infrastructure needs here. We do look at every community's needs and it's prioritized according to our capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** You first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's a need in these smaller communities that they need to see capital investments. With all these 25 Nunavut communities that need, as the minister has stated, with the \$200 million that were approved for the Iqaluit on the water infrastructure.

Speaking about water here, Mr. Speaker, during our recent Committee of the Whole consideration of the minister's budget, let me emphasize the importance of all our communities' reliable supply of safe and clean drinking water. Now it's the year 2022. Now, when it comes to clean and drinking water, it is not acceptable, let me say it again, not acceptable for Canadian citizens anywhere in the country to be under multiple boil water advisories year after year and after year.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to ensuring his department's 2024-25 capital budget includes investment in new water infrastructure for both Igloolik and Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Amittuq member for the question. Mr. Speaker, our water infrastructure is critical to serving our communities and the need is beyond what we can provide financially, but we do prioritize based on the most need.

Mr. Speaker, my department has also engaged with a consultant in developing

a prioritization programming tool to assist in ranking community water infrastructure. This looks at the level of risk that is associated with its capability to continue to provide potable water service within the community. Along with that, the program allocates scoring to all component systems of a water source, the water treatment facility, and ranks components of the community's system in order of relative risk.

Mr. Speaker, this programming tool is going to help us to spend our resources most efficiently to make sure that those boil water advisories get addressed within our financial capabilities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is very important for Nunavut communities to have good, clean drinking water. It is clear as day that it is unacceptable to always have boil water advisories in my constituency.

Now that I have said that, when we were dealing with Committee of the Whole and water infrastructure and upgrades, I should have mentioned that we have approved \$30 million in upgrades or for infrastructure needs. So that was my preamble.

(interpretation) I would like to ask a question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday there were mayors present in the House. They are in town for meetings and they represent Nunavut hamlets. The mayors arrive at Iqaluit to hold their mayors' meetings and yesterday we welcomed them here.



The final question I would like to ask is: when the mayors hold their meetings in Iqaluit, what can the minister advise the smaller communities on this matter or what are you able to pass along to the mayors about the capital investments upcoming in the years to come? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Amittuq for the question regarding capital plans, as well as the expectations of the hamlets, as they also anticipate these larger projects, and they all want to see these projects occur in their communities. The capital funding approved here in the legislature and which my colleagues approve for their constituency communities can speak to these approvals here after the capital plans have been approved.

Further, Mr. Speaker, when the Nunavut Association of Municipalities holds their AGM, it is clear this item will be discussed, and the capital funding we provide is funded through the (interpretation ends) municipal block funding (interpretation) specific to our hamlets' infrastructure which they can allocate to other items. Further, they can work on alternative means of funding larger purchases.

We also increased the overall amount of this funding, and this was a piece of good news items, but I anticipate that this matter will be debated further along with the fact that capital planning and projects are quite a large part of that, but this is also due to our capital funds being

severely limited and this will obviously be brought up.

This is also including the discussions I must hold with other ministers in Canada about the need for more capital funding, which is also affected by the global inflation rates we are seeing today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 260 – 6(2): Property Tax Rates**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Good morning to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Finance.

As the minister recall, he recently approved the 2022 Mill Rate Establishment Order under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. This order was recently published in the June edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*.

Mr. Speaker, if my math is correct, the 2022 property tax rate for residential properties in Nunavut communities outside of Iqaluit has increased by a little over 10 percent from the 2021 rate. The rate has increased by just over 46 percent over the last five years.

Can the minister clearly explain how the amount of the most recent increase was determined, and can he clarify approximately how much additional tax revenue is expected to be generated by this increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking that question, now these fees associated with property taxes were increased, and taxpayers who pay for property taxes saw an increase of approximately \$35 and this equals about 10 percent which the member is alluding to, which came into effect in June 2022. Mr. Speaker, this rate increase is to bring it in line with (interpretation ends) general taxation (interpretation) rates here in Iqaluit and other tax-based communities within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The most recent Mill Rate Establishment Order indicates that the property tax rate for mining properties has also increased by a little over 10 percent. This is the first increase in a number of years.

Can the minister clearly explain how the amount of the most recent increase was determined, and can he clarify approximately how much additional tax revenue is expected to be generated by this increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The questions the member raises include figures which he is requesting, and to be able to respond properly, I will take his question as notice. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Question 261 – 6(2): Kivalliq Inuit Association’s New Cultural Centres**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Culture and Heritage.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the minister’s statement that she made during last week’s sitting of the House regarding the Kivalliq Inuit Association’s new cultural centres in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the Kivalliq Inuit Association for beginning to build a new cultural centre in Naujaat. This new facility will have many positive impacts in the community.

Can the minister clarify the extent to which her department is involved with this important project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The comments I made previously related to archaeological or heritage centres. The Department of Culture and Heritage provided \$285,000 to the Kivalliq Inuit Association to begin the construction of a building they want to erect in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. (interpretation ends) The minister's statement indicated that the Kivalliq Inuit Association received a total of \$285,000 in funding from her department toward the construction of new facilities in Naujaat and Whale Cove.

Can the minister confirm if the cultural centres will be eligible to receive ongoing operational funding under her department's grants and contribution heritage centre core funding? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the figures become available, yes, the organizations will be able to apply towards funding related to operating these centres or other operations that go in hand with the management of this heritage centre. They will be able to apply for funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response, as this is something we can behold once it is completed in the future, especially when speaking of operational funding which they will be eligible to apply for.

(interpretation ends) The creation of a new cultural centre in a smaller community creates an opportunity for

economic development and training within the community.

My hope is that this facility will have an area for displaying artefacts and locally made products for sale, space for elders to teach youth traditional knowledge, and room to produce art and traditional tools.

Can the minister confirm if the new Naujaat Cultural Centre will be a multi-purpose facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Culture and Heritage, Ms. Quassa.

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the programs the member mentioned will be available, and they are currently in the designing stage, and it will include a workshop, as well as a meeting room along with a small canteen, but there will be rooms included for various needs such as what the member spoke to. They are included in the design phase for the building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### **Question 262 – 6(2): Pay Transparency Legislation**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Labour, and they are concerning the issue of pay transparency legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Province of Ontario was the first in the country to pass pay transparency legislation in 2018. Mr. Speaker, the intent of this legislation is

to increase transparency in hiring processes and give women more information when negotiating compensation that is equal to their male peers, as well as require all publicly advertised jobs postings to include a salary range. As the minister will be aware, a number of other Canadian jurisdictions have passed or are considering passing legislation concerning pay transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record that I would support the introduction of pay transparency legislation in Nunavut, as it would help to contribute to achieving employment equity goals in both the public and private sectors.

I would like to ask: can the minister confirm when he will be introducing pay transparency legislation in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister responsible for Labour, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. At this time the *Pay Transparency Act* is not on our list, but I do believe it's also important as well. It should be equal pay; I agree with that. It's important. It's not on our list right now, but we would be willing to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate the minister's comments and his agreement that this is an important matter. Mr. Speaker, since learning of pay transparency legislation,

I have been paying closer attention to job advertisements that have been released throughout Nunavut and I was surprised to see the amount of job advertisements that do not actually include salary ranges. I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to make a commitment to have his department begin work in developing the proposed pay transparency legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Labour, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for his question. Yes, we could definitely look into it. We could look at what other jurisdictions in Canada are doing as well so that we can come in line with what the rest of the country is doing as well so that we're not going way to the right or way to the left; it should be pretty much in general, in my opinion. It should be equal pay; I agree. I want to make sure that we look at what other jurisdictions are doing as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I do appreciate the minister's comments. Although there are no specific Nunavut-related gender equity pay scales, however, Stats Canada, as recently as 2021, has indicated that women earn on average 89 cents for every dollar that a male earns in an equivalent position. Just for the record, the Province of Ontario and the Province of PEI have passed pay equity legislation and the provinces of

Manitoba and BC are also currently reviewing that type of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, he meets annually with his federal counterparts, and I would like to ask if this issue of pay equity legislation has come up during those discussions in those meetings and, if not, if the minister would commit to bringing it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Labour, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm it. It has been brought up at federal-provincial-territorial counterparts and we do continue to work on it. We will continue to work on it with our counterparts across the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 263 – 6(2): First Nations and Inuit Policing Program**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a few questions on his minister’s statement, First Nations and Inuit Policing Program.

In the second paragraph it says that the program is cost shared at 52 percent federal and 48 percent territorial, so roughly about 50 percent. How much is the federal government giving the territorial government per year in a

dollar figure, not in a percentage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his questions on this exciting project that has been in the works for many years. It has actually been a little over ten years. Previous governments have been working on this.

As for dollar figures, I can’t answer that right now, Mr. Speaker. We’re in the final stages of signing everything over, so I’m not going to attempt to answer the member right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has committed to funding it and I would have thought that there would be some figures available, but I’ll get on to my next point.

In the second paragraph it’s talking about “These new, community-focused RCMP members mark an important step in our efforts to increase community engagement...” These appear to be new RCMP members. Are these regular members that we’re talking or are there going to be a different classification of RCMP members under this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they are Royal Canadian Mounted Police members with a specific goal in community policing and that would be based on each community that they are stationed in. They are Royal Canadian Mounted Police members specifically under this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this is First Nations and Inuit policy program, I'm going to assume that these new RCMP officers will have to be Inuk and, if they do have to be Inuk, what is the RCMP and Department of Justice doing differently to attract more Inuit into the RCMP? Right now we have, this is just off my memory, but only three Inuk RCMP members in all of Nunavut. If these are Inuit-specific RCMP members, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, what is being done to attract more Inuit to these positions? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the title is a bit misleading, the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program. It's not going to be Inuit only; it's geared towards the region of First Nations people, Inuit people, so it will be Royal Canadian Mounted Police members and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police do endeavour to continue to encourage Nunavummiut Inuit to apply to become Royal Canadian Mounted Police members. I apologize that the title is a bit misleading, the

program title; it's any Royal Canadian Mounted Police member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 264 – 6(2): Airline Service and Subsidies**

**Mr. Qavvik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this morning are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. My questions concern the issue of airline service and subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, when the Premier of Nunavut recently visited Sanikiluaq, he travelled to the community on the non-stop flight from Iqaluit that has been in operation for over a year. As the minister will recall, this service was originally announced as a pilot project in response to the impact that the pandemic had on air service to the community.

I can speak from experience that my constituents very much appreciate the ability to travel directly to and from their capital city, without having to overnight outside of the territory.

Can the minister confirm if this service will be extended for a further year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question. It was a pilot project that was launched by the Nunavut government and to have direct flights

coming from Sanikiluaq to Iqaluit and return. To date, we haven't decided whether we're going to be extending the pilot project. There are three departments that work together and we will have to consult each other and also see if there's an improvement with the communities that are involved. We're looking at the load that is carried from these communities and the number of passengers. We will have to look at the whole pilot project and see how it has gone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the Government of Canada announced an additional \$2.8 million in funding under the federal Department of Transport's Remote Air Services Program to the Government of Nunavut back in August of this year for the purpose of supporting "continued essential air services for remote communities in Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm how much of this federal funding has been used to support the Sanikiluaq pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) To this date, none have been spent on that particular pilot project, but the federal funding was for the regular routes that have been taking place. For Sanikiluaq going on the southern leg, it would have had an impact on the funding, but this pilot project is

specifically with the Government of Nunavut and that's to try to get the airline interested in so that Sanikiluaq can fly within the territory without having to go outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update today on the volume of passengers and cargo that have been transported to Sanikiluaq since the beginning of the pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A comprehensive report should be coming out and as I mentioned, this is an interdepartmental group that's going through here. From the data that we have from between July 21 and June 2022, the average was around 70 passengers with a high of 92 and a low of 8 passengers in a month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 265 – 6(2): First Nations and Inuit Policing Program**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to ask the Minister of Justice some questions on his minister's statement from today, but first I would like to draw attention to the Team Nunavut at the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships, who had their first win since 2015 by beating British Columbia yesterday 6-4.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the minister's statement on the first page, the minister mentions increasing resources over the next three years at a more sustainable rate. I'm a little confused by that statement when it puts in not just a time and it also talks about a more sustainable rate. I would like to get some details from the minister on how he would explain what a sustainable rate is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. With regard to the sustainable rate, it comes down to the two-person detachments, I believe. It cuts down on mental health concerns, fatigue and whatnot, but it also adds into the cost sharing of the actual program. Under the program we have right now, it's 70 percent funded by the Nunavut government and 30 percent by the federal government. Under this new program, the rate is 52 percent federal and 48 percent territorial funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm well aware of some of the fiscal challenges that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Department of Justice have had over the years. There have been a number of supplementary appropriations over the years for the Department of Justice to help address fiscal shortages within the policing contract with the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police. I do recognize that this increase in the federal investment into policing in Nunavut is going to have a dramatic impact or at least it is my hope that it is.

My first question along the lines of that is: when we look at increased federal investment, what is the Department of Justice's plan with their share that they're currently paying? Will there be a budget decrease from the Government of Nunavut or will the investment stay the same to actually accelerate improvements across the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My hope is that we do not reduce numbers across the territory, that we accelerate it and add more. We want to get rid of these two-person detachments across the territory, so we do want to accelerate and add more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in the minister's statement from earlier today, it states that "The focus of this program is on community engagement, crime prevention, and community safety. This means that Nunavummiut will have more of a say in how policing is conducted in their communities."

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the 25 different communities, there are different needs and variability across the territory and different regions even. My



next question, when we look at having more community engagement, obviously more members allows the existing members or additional members to be able to integrate more into the community to get more feedback. My final question is: what is the most recent request for staffing and resources from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to the Department of Justice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize; I don't have that info on hand, but I do commit to getting back to the member with the information he is requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### **Question 266 – 6(2): Energy Policy**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I would like to continue on the topic of my member's statement yesterday on the significance of an energy policy.

Mr. Speaker, I had noted that the Qulliq Energy Corporation had publicly shared a draft of their Independent Power Producer Policy, and I would like to note some of my own concerns. Mr. Speaker, on page 5 of the draft policy under Eligibility Requirements, it states that "The total [renewable] energy generation capacity which ties into a community's power system must not exceed the load demand for the community..."

Mr. Speaker, this requirement inherently excludes equipment and of the usage of batteries and energy storage systems. I would like to ask: why does this policy explicitly state that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. That was brought up as well at a public consultation. It's updating into the new policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. That is very encouraging to hear. I believe it is essential to utilize battery and energy storage to further reduce our reliance on diesel power generation.

Mr. Speaker, page 6 of the policy under the Purchase Price of Renewable Energy, it states that the Qulliq Energy Corporation "will purchase energy from Independent Power Producers, at...the avoided cost of diesel," which is, as the Qulliq Energy Corporation had stated, 25 cents a litre. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that there are many of our newer power plants that are generating electricity at an efficient rate.

**Speaker:** The translators are unable to hear you.

Apologies to the colleagues. We don't know how long this is going to take, so

we will take a lunch break and come back at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:08 and resumed at 13:29*

**Speaker:** Welcome back, everyone. Before we were interrupted, I think the minister was answering a question, but if Mr. Lightstone can repeat his first supplementary. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my fellow members mentioned that I likely had the longest question in Nunavut's history...

>>*Laughter*

...so I would like to thank you for that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in my member's statement I did make reference to the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's submission to the Utility Rates Review Council in 2020 regarding the commercial and institutional power producer purchase price of 25 cents a kilowatt hour, which the Utility Rates Review Council had denied that request, saying it was too low and insufficient stakeholder engagement.

Mr. Speaker, returning to the independent power producer draft policy, on page 6 it includes the purchase price for renewable energy and it states that the Qulliq Energy Corporation "will purchase energy from Independent Power Producers, at...the avoided cost of diesel," at 25 cents a kilowatt hour, it says, as Qulliq Energy has previously stated.

Mr. Speaker, it's well known that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's aging infrastructure has a number of diesel power plants operating well beyond their intended lifespan. I would like to ask the minister: how many of our power plants are actually producing energy at efficiency equal to 25 cents worth of diesel per kilowatt hour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the member's question correctly, he's asking how many power plants are operating at the avoided cost of diesel at 25 cents per kilowatt hour. Can I please get clarification? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister is seeking clarification to your question, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. My question has just gotten a little bit longer.

Mr. Speaker, yes, that is correct, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has indicated that it will only pay 25 cents per kilowatt hour for renewable energy. I would like to ask: considering the amount of aging infrastructure owned by the Qulliq Energy Corporation, how many of our power plants are actually efficient enough to produce one kilowatt hour utilizing 25 cents worth of diesel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the verification. The answer would be none and that's because a lot more goes into generating power than the cost of diesel. You've got materials for generators, lumber for the power plants, windows, the plant operators, the salaries and whatnot, so there's more to it that goes into generating power, but the answer is none. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a bit confused by the minister's response. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has stated on multiple occasions that it will only purchase renewable energy at 25 cents a kilowatt hour, which is their avoided cost of diesel for power generation. Mr. Speaker, I'm very curious to find out how many of our power plants actually generate electricity at that level, but I would like to move on to my next line of questioning.

Mr. Speaker, last year, in 2021, the Qulliq Energy Corporation released an RFP, or a request for proposals, regarding a specialized pricing strategy for renewable energy to identify how much the Qulliq Energy Corporation should be purchasing renewable energy from independent power producers and commercial and institutional power producers.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since that report was initiated and I

would like to ask if the findings were in favour of increasing the pricing structure beyond the avoided cost of diesel at 25 cents per kilowatt hour and if the minister is willing to commit to tabling that report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the report did find that it should be higher than the avoided cost of diesel, but I can elaborate a bit about that. The Qulliq Energy Corporation can only pay the avoided cost of diesel so that we do not incur another rate increase to the customers, Nunavummiut. That's why the Qulliq Energy Corporation is looking at the avoided cost of diesel only.

As for tabling the report, I'll have to get back to the member on that because we're still looking into when we can do that or if we should do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to continue with our question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Item 7. Written Questions. I recognize the Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

### Item 7: Written Questions

#### Written Question 001 – 6(2): Premier's Duty Travel

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Premier and they concern the subject of duty travel.

Mr. Speaker, we know that duty travel is entailed to all jobs here, but we also heard this morning from the CGS minister that finances are tight. One of the MLAs from Amittuq talked about boil water advisories and Minister Joanasie said that there's not enough money to go around, so some projects don't get done. We have to be aware of what the purpose of the travel is. For example, duty travel for photo ops would not just cut it. We have to be aware that there's limited amount of travel that should be done, but I'm aware it has to be done.

My written question is:

1. Expressing the information in the same format as which the Government of Nunavut provided in Return to Oral Question 75 – 5(2), what duty travel was undertaken by the Premier between November 20, 2021 and November 7, 2022?
2. What was the duration of the trip, the itinerary, the purpose of the trip, and the cost of each trip?
3. Who took part in the trip?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 8. Return to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

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

#### Committee Report 009 – 6(2): Report on the Review of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Review of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on this report from September 26 to 27, 2022. The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery, and was live-streamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing are available on the Legislative Assembly's website.

Mr. Speaker, witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Information and Privacy Commissioner and a number of departmental officials, including the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains 15 sets of formal recommendations directed to the Government of Nunavut, which cover a number of thematic areas, including:

- Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- The government's annual reports to the Legislative Assembly concerning its administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and relevant policies;
- Health privacy issues and the development of health-specific privacy legislation;
- The application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to municipalities, district education authorities, and other entities;
- Privacy impact assessments;
- Cybersecurity and the threat posed by ransomware;
- Agreements between the Government of Nunavut and external entities under such statutes as the *Police Act*; and
- The role of access to information and protection of privacy coordinators.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report,

pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report also contains three sets of formal recommendations directed to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. I anticipate that the office's responses to these recommendations will be tabled in the House through you.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** It is agreed.

Tabling of Documents. I will go first today. I have three documents to table today.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 070 – 6(2): 2023  
Sitting Calendar for the  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 071 – 6(2): Report  
on the Payment of Indemnities,  
Allowances, Expenses, and  
Benefits to the Members of the  
Sixth Legislative Assembly for the  
Period November 19, 2021 to  
March 31, 2022**

**Tabled Document 072 – 6(2):  
Speaker's List of Outstanding  
Tabling Requirements**

The first document is the 2023 Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The second document is the Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses, and Benefits to the Members of the Sixth Legislative Assembly for the period November 19, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

The third document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Tabled Document 073 – 6(2):  
Ministerial Mandate Letters**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the minister's mandate letters.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut version of the letters will be tabled once the translations are complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Tabled Document 074 – 6(2):  
Minister's 2011-2022 Report on  
Poverty Reduction**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Minister's 2021-22 Report on Poverty Reduction.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut version of the annual reports will be tabled once the translations are complete. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 075 – 6(2): 2020  
Traffic Safety Act Annual Report**

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2020 *Traffic Safety Act* Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut version of the annual report will be tabled once the translations are complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

**Tabled Document 076 – 6(2): Contract Activity Report for 2020-21****Tabled Document 077 – 6(2): Procurement Activity Report for 2020-21****Tabled Document 078 – 6(2): Lease Activity Report for 2020-21**

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present to the House the contract, procurement and leasing activity reports for 2020-21. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Tabled Document 079 – 6(2): 2021-22 Annual Report – Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Ethics Officer for the Nunavut Public Service 2021-22 Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 080 – 6(2): Responses to 2022-23 Letters of Expectation****Tabled Document 081 – 6(2): 2022 Interim Financial Report****Tabled Document 082 – 6(2): 2020-21 Government of Nunavut Grants and Contributions****Tabled Document 083 – 6(2): 2021-22 Government of Nunavut Grants and Contributions****Tabled Document 084 – 6(2): 2021-22 Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Annual Report****Tabled Document 085 – 6(2): Public Accounts of the Government of Nunavut for the Year Ended March 31, 2022**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table six reports:

- The Responses to the 2022-23 Letters of Expectation;
- The 2022 Interim Financial Report;
- The Government of Nunavut's 2020-21 Grants and Contributions;
- The 2021-22 Grants and Contributions;
- The Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis 2021-22 Annual Report; and
- The Public Accounts of the Government of Nunavut for the year ended March 31, 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Utility [Rates Review Council], Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

**Tabled Document 086 – 6(2): 2021  
Utility Rates Review Council  
Annual Report**

**Hon. P.J. Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2021 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Tabled Document 087 – 6(2):  
Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission 2021  
Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 088 – 6(2):  
Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission 2023  
Corporate Plan**

**Tabled Document 089 – 6(2):  
Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission 2023-  
27 Path Towards Safety Strategy  
Plan**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table three reports:

- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2021 Annual Report;
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2023 Corporate Plan; and
- The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's 2023-

27 Path Towards Safety Strategic Plan.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Tabled Document 090 – 6(2):  
Angirrataatsiaqtitsiniq – Status of  
Housing Snapshot 2022**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the Angirrataatsiaqtitsiniq: Helping Find a Good Place to Call Home Status of Housing Snapshot 2022.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut version of the annual report will be tabled once the translations are complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Tabled Document 091 – 6(2): 2020-21  
Department of Education Annual  
Report**

**Tabled Document 092 – 6(2):  
Department of Education Progress  
Report on Language of Instruction  
Regulations and Curriculum**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table two reports:

- The Department of Education's 2020-21 Annual Report; and
- I am also pleased to table a progress report from the Department of Education's *Language of Instruction*



*Regulations and curriculum development and implementation as part of the requirements under the Interim Language of Instruction Act.*

*Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 4, 8, 11, and 15 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

I ask that all members remain at their desks so that we can immediately proceed to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 4, 8, 11, and 15. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to commence with the review of Bill 8 and the supporting documents, followed by the review of Bills 4, 11, and 15. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Bill 08 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Malliki. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. Minister Kusugak, it looked like your witnesses were drawing straws over who got to appear with you.

Minister Kusugak, please introduce your witnesses and then Bill 8.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We drew the wrong straws the first go around. Thank you for your patience, colleagues.

With me today, to my left, the Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Seeley, and to my right, Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance. Again, thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman.

I am here today to present Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*. Bill 8 seeks a supplementary appropriation of \$19,136,000 for capital projects in 2022-

23, except for one item. Bill 8 deals with adjustments to the capital carryover amounts from 2021-22 to 2022-23, which were approved through the Legislative Assembly in June.

Mr. Chairman, when we approved the capital carryover in June, the amounts were based on projections and accruals. Since then, late invoices have been paid and various accounting adjustment entries have been made. The final adjustments show that we need to carry over an additional \$18,136,000 for various capital projects.

The approval of these additional carryovers is technical in nature. These projects are ongoing and Bill 8 ensures their continuation. It is important to note, though, that we are not seeking new funding through these carryover adjustments; rather, we are seeking approval to move the remaining unspent funds from 2021-22 to 2022-23 and, in some cases, decrease the already approved carryover amounts.

There are a total of 42 projects in this adjusted carryover request. The adjusted capital carryovers are broken down as follows:

- \$1,062,000 for the Department of Justice for the continuation of the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Healing Facility;
- \$4,044,000 to the Department of Education for eight projects, including a reduction in the carryovers for two lifecycle repairs and an increase in carryovers for projects at six schools;

- \$133,000 to the Department of Health for the Nunavut Long-Term Care Project Phase 1 in Rankin Inlet;
- \$122,000 to the Department of Environment for the Clyde River Agguttinni Park project;
- \$310,000 to the Department of Family Services for their case management system;
- \$1,758,000 to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for the following three projects:
  - Transportation Equipment and Facilities;
  - Pond Inlet Visitors Centre Fuel Tank; and
  - Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure;
- \$10,707,000 to the Department of Community and Government Services for 27 projects, including Nunavut Tank Farm Code Compliance, Kivalliq Energy Management Program, South Baffin Energy Management Project, and other projects.

Mr. Chairman, we are also seeking \$1 million in new funding through this supplementary appropriation for the replenishment of funds advanced from the communication technology infrastructure upgrades project to finance the Rankin Inlet Regional Services Office Emergency Roof Replacement project.

In June the Department of Community and Government Services transferred funds from the Community Technology Infrastructure Upgrade project to the

Rankin Inlet Regional Services Office Emergency Roof Replacement project. This was necessary due to a serious leak in the roof during the spring snow melt. The Department of Community and Government Services responded strategically to limit damage, but are now requesting an appropriation to replenish their funding for the Community Technology Infrastructure Upgrades project.

I am available to answer questions from members about Bill 8. However, detailed questions about the individual projects should be directed to the appropriate ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I would like to ask: do members have any general comments before we proceed to page-by-page? Seeing none, please turn to page 4. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2022-2023. Department of Justice. \$1,062,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page 5. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2022-2023. Department of Education. \$4,044,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2022-2023. Department of Health. \$133,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page 7. Same supplementary

appropriation. Department of Environment. \$122,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page 9 to start and then go over to page 10. Community and Government Services. \$10,117,000. Any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Petroleum Products Division under Community and Government Services. \$1,590,000. Any questions? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 9. Community and Government Services. \$11,707,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page 10. Economic Development and Transportation. \$1,758,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to page 11. Family Services. \$310,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go back to page 2. Summary of Appropriation Voted for the Public Service of the Government of Nunavut for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023. Capital Appropriation. \$19,136,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Please go to Bill 8 in your legislative binder.

Thank you, members. Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Please go to the Schedule on page 2. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$19,136,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 8 as a whole and put it on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, any closing comments?

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you very much, colleagues, for your support. I would like to thank my witnesses today for answering all the tough questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman:** Sorry; I'm just going to pause for a second.

Thank you. I'll just give Minister Kusugak... . Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the change in witnesses? We will now deal with Bill 4.

Thank you. Minister Kusugak, just to confirm, we have already approved you to have witnesses, so we will skip that step, but we will request that you introduce your new witness and proceed with your opening comments, please.

#### **Bill 04 – Liquor Tax Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right I have Deputy Minister of Finance Mr. Chown, and to my left, Mr. Dan Young, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 4, the *Liquor Tax Act*. Nunavut is one of the few jurisdictions in Canada that does not already impose a tax on liquor products. Most others already impose a specific liquor tax, a general sales tax, or both.

If the Assembly chooses to pass Bill 4, the new *Liquor Tax Act* would authorize the Government of Nunavut, through the Department of Finance, to impose a direct tax on liquor. Retailers, including the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis

Commission and licensed establishments, would charge the tax to consumers at the time of sale. The tax would also imply to imported alcohol. Consumers would pay the tax when they purchase an import permit.

Bill 4 proposes to establish the tax rate and other operational details in regulation. This will allow us to respond more quickly than if these details were fixed in legislation. We intend to keep the rate reasonable and the administrative requirements simple, in line with the feedback we received from stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman, we expect to set a tax rate in the 5 to 12 percent range. Based on that, this tax could raise between \$870,000 and \$2 million for the government each year. While this may not seem significant in context of the GN's overall budget, I appreciate that some members here have encouraged me to look for ways to increase the GN's own resource revenues. These taxes will contribute to the GN's general revenues and will be used to fund other government programs and services that the Assembly considers each year.

Mr. Chairman, we also expect this tax may encourage some consumers to reduce their overall consumption of liquor. The World Health Organization, the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation project, and the Canadian Centre for Addiction and Mental Health all recommend taxes as a way to encourage lower consumption.

Establishing this new tax will not solve liquor issues in Nunavut, but it is a step in the right direction. As members will appreciate, given the challenges our

communities face related to liquor, every step counts.

By passing Bill 4, the Assembly creates another set of tools we can use to combat bootlegging. Specifically, Bill 4 proposes new legislation that would allow us to penalize and sanction bootleggers through tax system. These would be in addition to those already contained in the *Liquor Act*. On that note, we know Nunavut's wider approach to governing liquor could benefit from significant change.

Many in our communities continue to struggle. We know the current system could be improved. This is why we are also reviewing the *Liquor Act*, the key piece of legislation that governs the use, distribution and sale of liquor in Nunavut. The issues surrounding liquor are complex and proposed revisions to the *Liquor Act* will benefit from the government's full consideration in time. As proposed, Bill 4 allows us to step forward today as a government to address this gap in our tax and liquor laws.

Mr. Chairman and members, this concludes my opening comments. I and my staff are available to answer questions at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq, please proceed.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 4, *Liquor Tax Act*.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

The standing committee encourages the minister to publicly clarify the government's timeline for bringing the new legislation into force.

The standing committee recognizes the challenges involved in setting liquor tax rates that are of a sufficient magnitude to positively impact consumer behaviour, but which do not inadvertently incentivize the creation of black markets.

I note for the record that four motions to amend the bill were adopted during the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee. These motions clarified provisions related to enforcement of the legislation.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Does any member have general comments to the opening comments? We will proceed. Bill 4, *Liquor Tax Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I went ahead a couple of pages. Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 30. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** It's a good thing I'm not using fingers; I would have ran out a little while ago.

>> *Laughter*

Clause 31. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 32. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 33. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 34. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 36. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 37. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 38. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 39. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 40. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 41. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 42. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 43. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question for the minister and I do appreciate that Bill 4 does create an additional set of tools to use in combatting bootleggers.

Section 43, subsection 4, lists the punishments for other offences ranging from not less than \$1,000 to not exceeding \$2,000 for a first offence, as well as imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, as well as creates subsequent fines not less than \$2,000 and not exceeding \$10,000, and imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months. I do appreciate that these fines are included. For example, when bootleggers are charged for offences under the *Liquor Tax Act*, they will receive one of these amounts of fines.

I just wanted to seek clarification as there are very similar fines that are imposed under the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*. I was just curious which would receive precedence. If a bootlegger is charged, would the fines be imposed under the *Liquor Tax Act* and go to the government coffers or would the fines be imposed under the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* and directed to the Victims Services Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Just to clarify, if somebody is charged specifically with bootlegging? Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that they would be charged under both, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In an instance where a bootlegger is charged for an offence under the *Liquor Tax Act*, they would receive a fine of \$1,000 to \$2,000 upon a first offence. In an instance where the bootlegger is also found with that amount of cash in their possession, if all they have is a thousand dollars, would they be fined for this amount and would it then go to the government's Consolidated Revenue Fund or, for example, if all they have is \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the director of forfeiture determines that should be forfeited and put into the Victims Services Fund? If they're charged under both Acts, it's sort of unclear which one would receive priority, whether the funds forfeited from the bootlegger would be put into



the Victims Services Fund or the funds would be used to pay the fine under the *Liquor Tax Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have a change in witness to answer this very technical and legal question through you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do the committee members agree to allow the minister to change his witness?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please. Thank you.

Minister Kusugak, please introduce Mr. Ahlfors before you turn it over to him. Minister Kusugak.

>>*Laughter*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce and have answer the question, Mr. Thomas Ahlfors, Director of Legal Legislation, Department of Justice, if you would allow him to proceed with responding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors, please proceed.

**Mr. Ahlfors:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no simple answer to that. In general, if the two are proceeding at the same time, then once the money is forfeit, it would go into the forfeiture fund and then it wouldn't be the

accused's money anymore. If they are found to be guilty and fined under the *Liquor Tax Act* in addition, well, then they wouldn't have that money anymore and so they would have a debt effectively to pay for the fine.

Now, if there are situations where money isn't seized and then there is a procedure under the *Liquor Tax Act* and they're fined and then they pay it up and only then forfeiture gets involved, which would be quite unusual. In that kind of a situation, well, they then wouldn't have that money anymore, but in most situations, it would be that the money would be seized and then it wouldn't be their money to use as they wish anymore and therefore they wouldn't be able to use that money to pay the fine and they would be in debt to the government for the fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 43. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 44. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 45. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 46. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 47. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 48. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 49. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 50. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 4 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to put Bill 4 on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Kusugak, closing comments.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to my colleagues. Just for the interest of my colleagues, it will take a few months, probably six, closer to nine months before we can develop regulations and bring this into force. I'll keep my colleagues updated as we move. Thank you for your time, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Please stay remaining in your seats, members. We will move to Bill 11 with Minister Simailak. Just one moment, please.

*>>Committee recessed at 14:18 and resumed at 14:19*

### **Bill 11 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to bring the committee meeting back to order. We have before us: Bill 11. First, I would like to ask Minister Simailak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witness in.

Thank you. Just for the record, Minister Simailak, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister of Justice Stephen Mansell; to my right is Director of Legislation, Justice Division, Thomas Ahlfors.

Good day, Mr. Chairman. I am here today to discuss Bill 11. This bill amends the various Acts to update references to the Crown following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension of His Majesty King Charles III.

There are several references to Her Majesty, Queen, and Queen Elizabeth II and other similar references in Nunavut's Acts.

Whenever possible, the amendments that we are making will provide for gender-neutral language, such as the “Crown” in place of “Her Majesty.” It is both in line with modern gender-neutral legislative drafting and will ensure that fewer changes will have to be made if there is a Queen in the future.

In cases where it remains necessary to make a gender-specific change, those references have been changed to the masculine and, in one case, a reference to the Majesty has been changed to the Government of Nunavut to reflect the data collected by vital statistics, which is the property of the government and not the Crown.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will now take questions.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. We’re going to let the standing committee decide whether they have opening comments before the questions start. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some very brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 11, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*.

For the record, I note that the bill was not amended at the standing committee stage of consideration and was not reprinted prior to its being reported back to the House.

The standing committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in his opening comments.

I wish to take this opportunity to express members’ condolences at the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Do members have any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, Bill 11, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 11 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to put Bill 11 on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Any closing comments? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As usual, thank you to the staff for coming in and sitting beside me, and also a special thank you to Mr. Thomas Ahlfors. He had to go through every Nunavut legislation to find where there is a reference to Her Majesty, which was a very tedious, long job. Thank you, Mr. Ahlfors.

Thank you to the committee and have a good afternoon. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I thank the minister for his comments. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Please stay in your seats. We will move

along right to Bill 15; just bear with us. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 14:23 and resumed at 14:24*

### **Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We're here to deal with Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. I would like to ask Speaker Akoak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Speaker.

**Speaker:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the Speaker's officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

Thank you. Speaker Akoak, just for the record, please introduce your official and proceed to your opening comments.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity today to provide some brief opening comments concerning Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

As members are aware, all of us are legally required to take an Oath of Allegiance and an Oath of Office prior to assuming any duties of office.

This bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* in respect to the Oath of Allegiance to reflect the recent passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I note that legislatures across the Commonwealth are expected to undertake similar initiatives and I wish to take this opportunity to publicly pay tribute to Her Late Majesty.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. God save the King! Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do standing committee members have general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 15 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to put Bill 15 on the orders of the day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a straightforward bill and I thank you all for approving it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. As we have concluded our committee work today, I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 4, 8, 11, and 15 and would like to report progress and that Bills 4, 8, 11, and 15 are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Anavilok. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 21: Third Reading of Bills****Bill 04 – Liquor Tax Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 4, *Liquor Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Bill 08 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023 – Third Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The bill is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Simailak.

>> *Laughter*

Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 11 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 11,

*Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The bill is ready for assent. Motion carried.

Third Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act – Third Reading**

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Clerk, will you please determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills.

**Assent to Bills**

**Commissioner Eva Aariak** (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following bills:

- Bill 4, *Liquor Tax Act*;

- Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022*;
- Bill 10, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024*;
- Bill 11, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*; and
- Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

As all members are aware, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away in September of this year.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, my office had the solemn responsibility of arranging for the official memorial ceremony, which took place at St. Jude's Cathedral.

I thank all members who attended this service, and I thank the many Nunavummiut who signed the books of condolence that were made available at different locations in our territory.

We welcome the accession of King Charles III. God save the King!

At this time of year, we prepare for winter's long embrace. We take comfort in knowing that the festive season will soon be here.

As you prepare to return to your constituencies and families, I wish you safe travels. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated.

Before we adjourn this session, many people deserve our gratitude and we need to thank them, and to all of our colleagues, as we try to assist our fellow residents, sometimes we arrive at disagreements amongst ourselves.

We can only discuss this to arrive at a consensus and to help one another towards the path to our future. First, to our members who speak on behalf of their constituents, we appreciate your candour.

>>Applause

Further, our interpreters who allow discussions amongst people speaking different languages to understand one another and our workers as well, even when they are not present, for their professionalism either speaking in English or Inuktitut as they speak properly.

Also, to our pages, we really appreciate all of your help.

>>Applause

I believe this young lady is from Sanikiluaq, the other young lady sitting yonder and as her partner sitting there, (interpretation ends) she is one of our movie stars...

>>Applause

...*Slash/Back* movie. Thank you very much. (interpretation) I am very appreciative of your time.

As you return home to your families and as the holidays approach, let us all enjoy one another. I also hope that you will have a safe trip.

I appreciate and say thank you to my staff especially when I make mistakes. (interpretation ends) They help me out. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*.  
Mr. Clerk.

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

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 22, 2023:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:41*



# Appendix – November 8, 2022



# **Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

*Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Reports of the  
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 6<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
Fall 2022 Sitting**

## **Chair**

George Hickes

## **Co-Chair**

Alexander Sammurtok

## **Members**

Bobby Anavilok  
Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster  
Joelie Kaerner  
Mary Killiktee  
Adam Arreak Lightstone  
Solomon Malliki  
Karen Nutarak  
Daniel Qavvik  
Joseph Quqqiaq  
Joe Savikataaq

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## Introduction

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The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut from September 26-27, 2022.

The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery, and was livestreamed on the Legislative Assembly's website. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing are available from the Legislative Assembly's website.

Witnesses appearing before the standing committee included the Information and Privacy Commissioner and a number of departmental officials, including the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The standing committee notes its appreciation to the witnesses.

## Overview and Chronology of Recent Events

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The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was inherited upon division on April 1, 1999.

Section 61 of the statute provides, in part, that:

Appointment of Information and Privacy Commissioner

61. (1) The Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint an Information and Privacy Commissioner to carry out the duties and functions set out in this Act and shall undertake other duties and functions in addition as required by other legislation.

The current incumbent, Graham Steele, assumed office on January 11, 2021. His term office expires on January 10, 2026. His predecessor, the late Elaine Keenan Bengts, served from November 15, 1999 to January 10, 2021.

The 2016-2017 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 12, 2017. The 2017-2018 annual report was tabled on October 26, 2018. The 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Nunavut's Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a televised hearing on the annual report on April 11, 2019. The standing committee presented its *Report on the Review of the 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner* at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of June 6, 2019. The Government of Nunavut's response to the standing committee's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 25, 2019.

The 2018-2019 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 17, 2019. The 2019-2020 annual report was tabled on October 21, 2020. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, televised hearings were not held on these reports. The 2020-2021 annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 9, 2021. The 2021-2022 annual report was tabled on May 25, 2022.

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has overarching responsibility for the government's administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and related regulations and policies (*Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*, the *Privacy Breach Policy* and the *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*). The government's 2019-2020 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 16, 2021. The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 annual reports have not yet been tabled. The annual report is not required by statute to be tabled.

The most recent set of significant amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* were made in 2017. Bill 48, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, was introduced and received 1<sup>st</sup> Reading on June 6, 2017. The Bill received Assent on September 19, 2017.

# Observations and Recommendations Directed to the Government of Nunavut

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**Issue:            Commitments to Provide Information**

During the televised hearing, witnesses from the Government of Nunavut made a number of commitments to provide additional information to the standing committee.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include, as attachments, the information items that were committed to during the televised hearing of September 26-27, 2022.

**Issue:           Annual Reports on the Administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act***

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has overarching responsibility for the government's administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and related regulations and policies (the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy*, the *Privacy Breach Policy* and the *Privacy Impact Assessment Policy*).

The government's 2019-2020 annual report on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 16, 2021. The 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 annual reports have not yet been tabled. The annual report is not required by statute to be tabled.

The standing committee emphasizes the importance of timely tabling of annual reports to the Legislative Assembly.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #2:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 annual reports on the administration of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* be tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide for a statutory requirement for the Minister responsible for the Act to table, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the legislation.

**Issue: Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinators**

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearing of September 26-27, 2022, to the role of the Government of Nunavut's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinators. The standing committee applauds the work of these frontline employees.

In his 2021-2022 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that "there are too many vacancies, too much turnover, not enough training and little or no management support" with respect to the government's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinators.

The standing committee recognizes that the government currently faces a number of significant capacity challenges in filling critical positions, such as health care workers.

On August 12, 2022, the Government of Nunavut issued *RFP 2022-52: Standing Offer Agreement - Privacy and Information Management-Specific Training and Consulting Services*. The Request for Proposals closed on September 16, 2022.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, what specific education and training qualifications are currently required for Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinator positions.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the methodology which determined current salary ranges for Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinator positions.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, what specific actions are being taken to review current salary ranges for Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinator positions.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report confirm the results of *Request for Proposals 2022-52: Standing Offer Agreement - Privacy and Information Management-Specific Training and Consulting Services*.

**Issue: Centralization of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Administration**

The Government of Nunavut's formal response of August 3, 2022, to the Information and Privacy Commissioner's *Review Report 22-221-RR* indicated that:

"As for the observation that the access to information and protection of privacy function is broken and needs changes either to the legislation or to access to information and protection of privacy administration, this is part of a larger conversation between the Information and Privacy Commissioner's office and The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. We have started conversations internally on how to centralize the access to information and protection of privacy function to better address the concerns and recommendations on a whole Government of Nunavut approach to access to information and protection of privacy."

**Standing Committee Recommendation #4:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the status of its current review of the centralization of access to information and protection of privacy administration, and that this clarification include a detailed update concerning the extent to which positions related to the administration of the function are planned to be transferred to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs or other central agency.



**Issue:           Application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to Municipalities, District Education Authorities and Alcohol Education Committees**

In April of 2015, the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Regulations* were amended to designate housing authorities and housing associations as public bodies. However, District Education Authorities (DEAs) are not yet covered by the legislation. In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions to allow, through regulation, for the designation of municipalities as public bodies. However, new regulations to give effect to these changes have not yet been passed.

On November 9, 2021, the Iqaluit City Council passed a formal motion directing the municipal administration to “work with the Government of Nunavut and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut on funding, training and file management systems, with the goal of coming under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* by January 2023.”

Although the standing committee supports the principle of having federal, territorial and municipal levels of government being covered by appropriate legislative frameworks in respect to access to information and protection of privacy, it recognizes the reality of capacity challenges facing smaller entities.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #5:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, the current status of the development of regulations under section 73(a) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the designation of municipalities as public bodies.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify, in detail, its response to City of Iqaluit Motion 21-371, which was adopted at the Council’s meeting of November 9, 2021.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of regulations under section 73(a) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the designation of District Education Authorities as public bodies.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report clarify its position respecting the application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to Alcohol Education Committees established under section 50 of the *Liquor Act*.

**Issue:            Cybersecurity and Ransomware**

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee’s televised hearing of September 26-27, 2022, to the issues of cybersecurity and ransomware.

In his 2021-2022 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that “we live in a world of surveillance and cyberattacks.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #6:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report include a copy of the “forensic report” that is referenced on page 11 of the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s 2021-2022 annual report.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report describe, in detail, what consultations it has undertaken, or is planning to undertake, with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding cybersecurity initiatives.

**Issue:           *Police Act***

Nunavut's new *Police Act* was passed by the 5<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and received Assent on June 8, 2021. The legislation provides, in part, that:

Agreement - contracted investigative body

6. (1) The Minister may, from time to time, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, enter into an agreement with an independent investigative body, or with its government, to authorize the independent investigative body to be a contracted investigative body for the purposes of this Part.

Agreement - contracted police force

(2) The Minister may, from time to time, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, enter into an agreement with a police force in Canada, or with its government, municipality or other authority, to authorize the police force to be a contracted police force for the purposes of this Part.

These provisions concern investigations into serious incidents occurring within the meaning of the federal *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act*.

In his 2021-2022 annual report to the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicates that his office has not yet been consulted by the Department of Justice concerning proposed agreements between the Government of Nunavut and independent investigative bodies and other entities.

The standing committee notes the importance of ensuring that agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut and independent investigative bodies and other entities include disclosure requirements that are comparable to those which are in place in other Canadian jurisdictions in respect to the public reporting of investigative findings.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #7:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, what consultations it has undertaken, or is planning to undertake, with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the entering into of agreements with contracted investigative bodies and contracted police forces under the territorial *Police Act*.

**Issue: Non-Disclosure Agreements**

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearing of September 26-27, 2022, to the issue of non-disclosure agreements.

In his testimony to the standing committee of September 27, 2022, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“The answer to your question is that, in my opinion as your Information and Privacy Commissioner, and as a lawyer of more than 30 years' experience, the information law prevails over non-disclosure agreements, especially in the government context, because it is the people's money. If there's a non-disclosure agreement entered into by the Government of Nunavut, it means that there is some aspect of the public interest at play, and although the issue has not come before me, if somebody applied to see an agreement and the government said, 'No, we're not giving it to you because there is a non-disclosure clause in the agreement,' I'm very likely to say that that is legally wrong and the agreement should be disclosed. To put it in one sentence, Member, I do not believe that governments should enter into non-disclosure agreements and, if they do, it is very much subject to the information and privacy law.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #8:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed list of non-disclosure agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut's departments, public agencies, territorial corporations and other entities and individuals between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2022.

**Issue: Privacy Impact Assessments**

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions concerning privacy impact assessments.

The statute defines a "privacy impact assessment" to mean "an assessment that is conducted by a public body as defined in section 2, but not including a municipality, to determine if a current or proposed program or service meets or will meet the requirements of Part 2 of this Act."

Section 42.1 of the statute provides that:

**Privacy impact assessment**

42.1. (1) A minister shall, during the development of a program or service by a public body or the redesign of an existing program or service by a public body, submit to the Minister responsible for this Act

- (a) a privacy impact assessment for the Minister's review and comment; or
- (b) the results of a preliminary assessment showing that a privacy impact assessment of the program or service is not required.

**Preliminary assessment**

(2) A minister shall conduct a preliminary assessment and, where required, a privacy impact assessment in accordance with the directions of the Minister responsible for this Act.

**Municipality not included**

(3) A municipality is not a public body for the purposes of subsection (1).

**Standing Committee Recommendation #9:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include detailed descriptions of the findings of each privacy impact assessment and preliminary assessment undertaken under section 42.1 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* between April 1, 2019 and March 1, 2022, and that these descriptions detail the extent to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted in their preparation.

**Issue: Sunsetting Policies**

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Services administers the *Acceptable Use of Mobile Devices Policy*, which sunsetted on August 31, 2021. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Services also administers the *Acceptable Email and Internet Usage Policy*, which sunsetted on December 31, 2021.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #10:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report clarify, in detail, the status of its reviews of the *Acceptable Use of Mobile Devices Policy* and the *Acceptable Email and Internet Usage Policy*.

**Issue: Health-Specific Privacy Issues and Related Matters**

Significant attention was paid during the standing committee's televised hearing of September 26-27, 2022, to health-specific privacy issues.

The standing committee takes note of the September 2022 resolution concerning digital healthcare that was issued at the annual meeting of federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners.

Subsection 67(c) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that the Information and Privacy Commissioner may "offer comment on the implications for privacy protection of proposed legislative schemes or government programs."

**Standing Committee Recommendation #11:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of health-specific privacy legislation, including the extent to which the legislation will address the public release of statistics and other information concerning communicable diseases.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Department of Health formally consult with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the development of health-specific privacy legislation, and that the Office's recommendations be tabled in the Legislative Assembly following the introduction of the proposed Bill.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of what information- and privacy-related orientation and training is provided to employees and contractors working in group home and supported living environments in Nunavut.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, what consultations it has undertaken, or is planning to undertake, with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner regarding the coming into force of the new territorial *Mental Health Act* and the activities of the Mental Health Review Board.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a copy of the "Interagency Sharing Protocol" that was referenced by the Government of Nunavut's lead witness during his testimony to the standing committee of September 27, 2022.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of its information-sharing agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated regarding health-specific data, including data concerning tuberculosis, and that a copy of this agreement be tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest practicable opportunity.



**Issue: Public Sector Salary Disclosure**

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed a number of amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act*, including the addition of new provisions to allow, through regulation, the disclosure of remuneration of prescribed classes of public employees. However, new regulations to give effect to these changes have not yet been passed.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #12:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include a detailed description of the current status of the development of regulations under sections 73(1.1) and (1.2) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in respect to the disclosure of remuneration of prescribed classes of public employees.

**Issue: Labour Relations and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act***

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has written in a number of his formal review reports that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* has become a “proxy battleground for labour relations issues within the Government of Nunavut.”

In his testimony to the standing committee of September 27, 2022, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“That’s not what the law is for; that’s not what it was intended to do, but nevertheless, that is the way it is being used. I do think that there are some ways of dealing with this. We could, again, talk about it a long time, but I’ll just name the most obvious way of dealing with this and that is to say that and that is to reach agreement with the unions, for example, about when somebody files a grievance, what information are they entitled to, what information they’re not entitled to, so that there’s already an agreement in place about how the information will be used in the grievance process.”

Section 1104 of the Government of Nunavut’s *Human Resources Manual* (“Release of Information”) was last updated on April 10, 2006, over fifteen years ago.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #13:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report describe, in detail, what specific discussions it has had with the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut Teachers’ Association concerning potential changes to the grievance process in respect to access to information and protection of privacy.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut’s response to this report describe, in detail, its timeline for updating *Human Resources Manual Section 1104 - Release of Information*.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Minister responsible for the *Public Service Act* formally request the Office of the Ethics Officer to initiate contact with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to discuss areas of potential collaboration between the two entities.

**Issue: Information-Sharing Agreements and Related Matters**

A significant number of territorial statutes allow for the government to enter into information-sharing agreements with other entities.

On November 8, 2016, the Government of Nunavut's strategy document titled *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. One of the elements of the strategy provides that:

“Sometimes the courts, justices of the peace, Royal Canadian Mounted Police or other mechanism of Nunavut's justice system limit, restrict or prohibit an individual from accessing alcohol. These restrictions are often put in place after the individual, under the influence of alcohol, has caused themselves or others significant harm. It is the individual's responsibility to abide by any restrictions the court imposes.

However, to better reinforce these restrictions and limit future alcohol-related harm to the individual or others, the government could potentially support such court-ordered restrictions by *not* issuing an alcohol import permit to the individual. For this to work, the permitting system would need to be aware of the alcohol-related restrictions in place.

The government will explore how to support court-ordered restrictions on alcohol by considering whether the permitting system could help reduce alcohol-related harm by supporting court-ordered restrictions on alcohol; and exploring ways to increase communication between the courts and the permit system with respect to alcohol-related limitations, restrictions, and prohibitions for individuals in the territory, while respecting these individual's rights.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #14:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report include detailed descriptions of each information-sharing agreement entered into by the Government of Nunavut's departments, public agencies and territorial corporations under the authority of a territorial statute between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2022, and that these descriptions clarify the extent to which the Information and Privacy Commissioner was consulted in their preparation.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut's response to this report describe, in detail, what specific actions have been taken to date in relation to the “Supporting Court-Ordered Restrictions on Alcohol” section of its *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut* strategy, including a detailed description of what information is currently shared with the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission in respect to court-ordered restrictions on alcohol.

**Issue:           Amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act***

Section 37 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides, in part, that:

Appeal of decision of head

37. (1) An applicant or a third party may appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under section 36 to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

However, the Information and Privacy Commissioner does not have the explicit authority under the legislation to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body in respect to their recommendations.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner indicates on page 21 of his 2021-2022 annual report that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* should be amended to “give the Information and Privacy Commissioner the power to order the disclosure of documents.” This recommendation was also made by the previous Information and Privacy Commissioner. In its response to the previous Information and Privacy Commissioner’s recommendation, the government indicated that it is concerned that “giving the office this power would have unintended consequences to other initiatives and priorities.”

**Standing Committee Recommendation #15:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to sections 36, 49.6 and 49.13 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that would provide for a requirement on the part of the head of a public body to provide written reasons for decisions made in respect to recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the Government of Nunavut introduce amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide the Information and Privacy Commissioner with the authority to appeal a decision made by a head of a public body under sections 36, 49.6 and 49.13 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to the Nunavut Court of Justice.

# Observations and Recommendations Directed to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

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**Issue: Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly and Website**

Section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that:

Annual report

68. (1) The Information and Privacy Commissioner shall, within six months after the end of each fiscal year, submit to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly an assessment of the effectiveness of this Act and a report on the activities of the Information and Privacy Commissioner under this Act during the fiscal year, including information concerning any instances where recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner after a review have not been followed.

Laying report before Legislative Assembly

(2) The Speaker shall, at the first opportunity, lay a copy of the annual report referred to in subsection (1) before the Legislative Assembly.

The 2021-2022 annual report of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 25, 2022, less than 60 days after the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The standing committee applauds the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the timeliness of his reporting.

As part of its approved terms of reference, the standing committee holds televised hearings on the annual reports of a number of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly, including those submitted by the Auditor General of Canada. As a matter of practice, the government's formal responses to recommendations made by the Auditor General are embedded in the report itself. This practice greatly facilitates the ability of the standing committee to hold government witnesses to account during televised hearings on the annual reports of independent officers.

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner maintains a website that provides a comprehensive range of important information. The website includes a section titled "Decisions," which contains formal review reports directed to public bodies and their responses to the reports. The standing committee notes that ease of navigation of this section of the website would be enhanced if the public bodies were more clearly identified.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #1:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's annual reports to the Legislative Assembly which are prepared and submitted under section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* include the Government of Nunavut's formal responses to recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

**The standing committee further recommends** that the "Decisions" section of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's website more clearly identifies the public bodies involved.

**Issue: Community Travel**

The theme of “capacity” was discussed at length during the standing committee’s televised hearing of September 26-27, 2022.

The standing committee is of the view that the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s work, especially in respect to the potential application of the *Access to information and Protection of Privacy Act* to municipalities, District Education Authorities and other entities, would benefit from first-hand exposure to the environment in which they operate.

The standing committee recognizes that pandemic-related travel restrictions during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years precluded the Information and Privacy Commissioner from undertaking community travel within Nunavut.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #2:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, in cooperation with the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, undertake at least one visit to a smaller Nunavut community outside of Iqaluit prior to the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and that the results of the visit be reported in the Office’s 2022-2023 annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

**Issue: Information-Sharing Agreements**

In his testimony to the standing committee of September 26, 2022, the Information and Privacy Commissioner stated that:

“Last year, there was a ransomware attack. I’m not talking about the ransomware attack on the Government of Nunavut, which you are aware of all too well. There was a ransomware attack on a company in Ontario that has a contract with the Government of Nunavut to handle student information for every single student in the territory. Let me repeat that just so you understand what’s at stake. The Department of Education has a contract with a company based in Ontario. It’s called a ‘Student Information System.’ This time, it was not the Government of Nunavut that was attacked; it was that computer of that company down in Ontario which held information about every single school child in Nunavut.

The difficulty that I have is that this company was based in Ontario. I have no authority outside the borders of Nunavut. What I did was contact the federal privacy commissioner, which does have jurisdiction over private companies across the country, I entered into an information-sharing agreement with the federal privacy commissioner and they did the investigation. I call it my office, but it’s really just me, but the federal privacy commissioner has 150 people. It’s a big office with a lot of technical expertise. When they did the investigation, I was satisfied that they had done a proper, thorough job. And so now today, I can tell you that I am satisfied that no information about Nunavut students was stolen. It could have been, but it wasn’t, so that’s good news.”

The standing committee applauds the Information and Privacy Commissioner for his proactive response to this situation.

**Standing Committee Recommendation #3:**

**The standing committee recommends** that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s response to this report include copies of information-sharing agreements entered into with other federal, provincial and territorial information and privacy commissioners between January 11, 2021 and September 30, 2022.