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Official Report

DAY 16

Monday, June 13, 2022

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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

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(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation; Minister of
Energy*

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(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

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(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

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Corporation*

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(Netsilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, June 13, 2022

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joellie Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>House commenced at 9:00

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak): Good morning, everyone. Before we start the proceedings this morning, I ask Mr. Malliki to lead us in prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Hello, Inuit. (interpretation) I say “good morning” to everyone.

(interpretation ends) Ministers’ Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements**Minister’s Statement 063 – 6(2): Team Nunavut – Canada Games 2022**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to share with you that Team Nunavut will be heading to the 2022 Canada Summer Games in the Niagara Region of Ontario this August 6 to 22. Up to 65 representatives will attend the Games as athletes, coaches, youth ambassadors, and support staff. The Canada Games program is the highest level of competition available for amateur athletes in the major multi-sport games format in Canada.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this will be Team Nunavut’s largest Canada Summer Games delegation to date with the addition of beach volleyball and indoor volleyball joining our wrestlers at the Games. The inclusion of our first team sport debut at a Canada Summer Games reflects the development in the Nunavut sport sector.

The Canada Summer Games will also be an opportunity for 11 youth ambassadors from seven communities who will volunteer with the host society and continue to develop their leadership skills. These young leaders have completed community projects and Rec North training to prepare for this opportunity.

As you are aware, the Sport and Recreation Division of my department coordinates Team Nunavut’s participation in major games programs like the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Games, North American Indigenous Games, and the Western Canada Summer Games.

Mr. Speaker, the Team Nunavut Major Games Program provides our athletes the opportunity to measure their performance against their peers and exchange culture with youth from

around the country. The 2022 Canada Summer Games were originally scheduled for summer of 2021 but postponed due to the ongoing concerns of the pandemic. After two years of limited competition and travel opportunities due to the public health measures in place, I have no doubt this will be a very exciting debut of Team Nunavut and encourage all Nunavummiut to follow along and cheer on our athletes from afar.

During the Games, federal, provincial and territorial ministers will also meet to discuss many topics around sport, including our commitment to providing athletes an environment free of abuse, harassment, and discrimination. My division has been working diligently in this area and has developed Nunavut's Safe Sport Strategy and Safe Sport Game Plan for implementation in the fall of 2022.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the community volunteers, coaches, community mentors, and territorial sport organizations who work tirelessly to make these opportunities possible for our youth. Best of luck to our athletes preparing for the upcoming Canada Summer Games. (interpretation ends) *Atii*, let's go, Team Nunavut!

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 064 – 6(2):
Civilian Review and Complaints
Commission for the RCMP**

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to speak about the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the important work they do.

The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is an independent agency that reviews complaints made by members of the public about the on-duty conduct of Royal Canadian Mounted Police members. The commission is independent from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker, any Nunavummiut who think they have been mistreated by a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police should reach out to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission. Nunavummiut can file a complaint by completing an online form on the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission website at www.crcc-ccetp.gc.ca or a complaint form can also be printed and completed and sent by fax or mail.

A link to the website complaint form can be found on the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission website and also on the Government of Nunavut Department of Justice website. Forms are available in English, Inuktitut, and French.

As we work to build reconciliation with our policing partners, it is important that we work with the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission to ensure complaints are tracked and properly investigated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 065 – 6(2):
Client Liaison Officers**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the significant role the Department of Family Services' client liaison officers play in assisting clients in residential care in southern Canada.

Initially the department hired two individuals to fill these positions in Ottawa and Edmonton. As the needs of clients who receive residential care out of the territory increased, the client liaison officers grew from a team of two to five. All of these five positions are filled by Inuit in Ottawa, Edmonton, and now Winnipeg.

Client liaison officers work very closely with community partners in southern Canada and most importantly, provide direct culturally relevant support to Nunavut clients in residential care. They assist clients with transitioning from Nunavut and help keep them connected to cultural supports and Inuit service organizations. They also conduct annual residential site visits to ensure the highest quality of care is being delivered to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, one of the priorities of the department is the repatriation of

Nunavummiut back to Nunavut when and if the appropriate supports and services are available in the territory. The client liaison officers contribute directly to this end goal by participating in case conferences on the Family Wellness Planning Committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in offering our sincere appreciation to our client liaison officers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 066 – 6(2): Inuit
Broadcasting Corporation 40-Year
Anniversary**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

The Department of Culture and Heritage has provided the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation with funding for many years through grants and contributions. These funds support the operating and programming costs associated with running the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight some of the work that the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation will be undertaking this year with support from my department.

- *Ikpaksak* Season 1
- Archival Film Project
- *Iqqaumavavut* Season 6
- *Qanuq Isumavit*
- *Ajungi* Season 2
- *Takuginai* Season 9
- *Katijut* Season 1
- Renovations to the Nunavut Media Arts Centre

These programs are meant to give Inuit and Nunavummiut access to television programming which is primarily in Inuktitut.

I am honoured to recognize the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in celebration of its 40th anniversary. I would like to take this opportunity to say “*qujannamiik*” to the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation for their amazing work and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them on this outstanding milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister’s Statement 067 – 6(2):
Celebrating Nunavut’s Graduates**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the past two years have been a time of uncertainty for our students because of the COVID-19

pandemic. We have asked them to be flexible and adjust; students have transitioned between in-class learning, remote learning, and sometimes a combination of both.

Today I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate our high school students who have persevered, despite the challenges, and who have graduated or are on the path towards graduation.

Mr. Speaker, 287 students graduated from Nunavut high schools in 2021, and approximately 290 students will be graduating this year. I want to recognize and commend these students for achieving this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, our graduation ceremonies looked a little different over the last couple of years. Graduates celebrated their success with their families and communities in a variety of creative ways, while continuing to follow public health measures and to ensure safety.

Communities organized parades, with friends and families cheering on the graduates. Some schools had indoor ceremonies with a limited number of people attending, while others had outdoor celebrations. Decorations were bright and colourful, and provided a beautiful backdrop for graduation photos to be shared with those who could not attend. I know we all look forward to what this year’s graduation ceremonies will bring.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of every one of our graduates. Their success is also a testament to the support of their families, friends, and communities. We wish them all the best as they follow and chase their dreams and pursue a higher education or

enter the workforce. Please join me in congratulating our Nunavut high school graduating class of 2021 and class of 2022. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

**Minister's Statement 068 – 6(2):
Summer Health Outlook**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of this spring sitting, I would like to take the opportunity to share some advice on staying healthy over the summer months. This message was developed with the Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Michael Patterson.

(interpretation ends) The peak of the Omicron wave has passed and the pressure on our health care system has eased considerably on the COVID front. However, the virus is still present and circulating in Nunavut. As well, the rates of other respiratory illnesses such as RSV and Influenza have risen in recent months. Looking ahead to July, August, and September, there is good reason for Nunavummiut to remain vigilant and prepared as they enjoy summer.

Respiratory illnesses like COVID, RSV, and the flu spread through shared air and close contact. Nunavummiut are reminded of the benefits of good hand hygiene, good ventilation when indoors, and the benefits of mask-wearing. Wearing masks when sharing air indoors or whenever you feel the need will

continue to pay benefits in protecting your friends, family, and community against illness. I encourage Nunavummiut to wear masks when appropriate, to gather in well-ventilated settings, and avoid gatherings if you're feeling unwell. If and when you get ill, rapid antigen tests continue to be available free of charge across Nunavut and are another tool to help to protect those around you.

Uqaqtitsijii, looking forward, from a health perspective, the coming fall and winter could be difficult. Canadian health experts are speaking of a possible fall wave of COVID and new variants beyond Omicron continue to emerge. The exact trajectory is unknown currently, but we do know this: vaccines are our best defence against COVID. Keeping your COVID vaccinations up to date is another way of preparing for the fall and winter. Over the summer, the Department of Health will continue to ensure COVID vaccines are available. Mr. Speaker, the vaccine is safe, it works, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to get the vaccine for their own health and the health of their loved ones and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want this message to be a raincloud covering the summer sun. (interpretation) The Department of Health wishes Nunavummiut a healthy and enjoyable summer, which includes some mask-wearing, use of rapid tests, and of course a vaccine dose or two. Together these measures will help everyone have the best summer possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 069 – 6(2): CGS Safety Services

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, as a government we will always identify new priorities and adapt to address emerging issues and needs and these priorities should always be informed by our communities. Today I would like to share some of the Department of Community and Government Services activities and initiatives to engage with Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Fire Marshal's Office, a section of the Safety Services Division, in partnership with the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization, aids Nunavut community fire departments to develop, deliver, and maintain efficient fire protection and prevention services through a combination of territorial and community-based courses. This approach enables firefighters to travel to other communities to broaden their skillset and strengthen relationships with other firefighters in addition to training provided in their own communities to protect Nunavummiut and our critical infrastructure.

The Office of the Chief Building Official, also housed within the Safety Services Division, conducts regional in-person meetings and/or seminars to engage with contractors and designers to support their understanding of the Nunavut Building Act. To engage with key stakeholders through COVID-19,

the team delivered an online seminar via Microsoft Teams. The division recognizes the value in engaging with contractors and designers to ensure compliance with the Act and to minimize delays to construction.

Mr. Speaker, my department continues to develop targeted engagement sessions to promote program awareness and to identify issues and opportunities to improve service delivery. I look forward to working with our local government partners to enhance service to communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 084 – 6(2): Parka Making Project in Taloyoak

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge nine great individuals in the community of Taloyoak who wrapped up the parka making project on Friday, June 10, 2022. Mr. Speaker, the project was eight weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Taluq Design manager, Mona Igutsaq, and the two instructors, Martha Paniluk and Rebecca Aqslaq. The trainees were:

- Pauline Idlout
- Amanda Ruben
- Deena Totalik
- Martha Pauloosie
- Jacqueline Taqtu
- Robin Peetooloo

Mr. Speaker, 44 parkas were made all together and because of 44 parkas, 22 community members will be warmer when winter comes and 22 of their families. Mr. Speaker, I have seen pictures and it made me very happy and proud as they are too.

Mr. Speaker, also I wanted to thank the City of Iqaluit and Iqalummiut once again. Thank you for being welcoming as always.

My colleagues and Nunavummiut, have a great spring and summer and see you all back in the fall time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Member's Statement 085 – 6(2):
Marine Infrastructure**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share some good news with the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on a number of occasions about how the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet has expressed support for the construction of new marine infrastructure that will strengthen the local fishing industry and provide economic development opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans is now working on an engineering feasibility study for a new small craft harbour in Chesterfield Inlet.

Information published by the department indicates that a number of baseline studies are planned for this summer's open water season.

The published timeline for this work indicates that the feasibility study will be completed and submitted in March of next year.

Mr. Speaker, I am very hopeful that this work will lead to the construction of important new infrastructure in the community.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, on August 26, 2019 the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced that the Government of Canada intends to create a new *Oceans Act* Marine Protected Area in the vicinity of Southampton Island and Chesterfield Inlet.

I urge all parties to consult fully with the community on these initiatives. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Members' Statements.
Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

**Member's Statement 086 – 6(2):
Marine Infrastructure**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of marine infrastructure in Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have talked on many occasions about the importance of having adequate marine infrastructure in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans is currently planning to undertake an engineering feasibility study for new small craft harbours in a number of Nunavut communities, including Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

Information published by the Nunavut Impact Review Board indicates that these projects are moving through the regulatory review process.

Mr. Speaker, as these projects move forward, I look forward to a close working relationship between the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the territorial Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the municipalities, and the hunters and trappers organizations.

Mr. Speaker, these projects are good news for the communities that I represent and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to share the news with you and my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 087 – 6(2): 2022
High School Graduates of Clyde
River**

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues, as well as to the people of Iqaluit and my constituents.

I would like to rise today to express my pride for the high school graduates of Clyde River's Quluaq School. I would

like to offer my congratulations and announce the graduates. They are:

- Jayden Arreak
- Lindsay Hainnu
- Lalisha Iqalukjuak
- Anna Irwin
- Amelia Jaypoody
- Jasmine Palituq
- Jarome Qaqqasiq
- Simeonie Qayaq
- Zachariah Qillaq
- Janice Sanguya
- Gloria Tigullaraq

These are the 11 graduates from the Quluaq School in Clyde River. I rise to congratulate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations to the graduates. Members' Statements.
Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

**Member's Statement 088 – 6(2):
Youth Committees in Constituency**

Mr. Kaernek: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. (interpretation) Good morning to the people of Amittuq and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize active youth committees in my riding. I will start off with the Igloolik Youth Committee. I would like to recognize them and make sure that it's noticed here in this House.

For the Igloolik youth committee, the Chairperson is Sharon Irgaut, Vice-chairperson Pauline Ammaq, Treasurer Tina Qaunaq, and the committee members are Janita Airuq, Lynn Quassa,

Jenny Attagutsiak, Maata Angutautok, Sarafina Malliki, Tiffany Malliki, Deborah Qamaniq, *ammalu* Jenna Irngaut. These are the Igloodik active youth committee.

For Sanirajak, I would like to also recognize Deborah Qanatsiaq, Chairperson, Iris Qanatsiaq, Vice-chairperson, the treasurer is Anna Kadlutsiak, and the other committee [members] are Isabelle Audlakiak and Joseph Auksaq.

I would like them to be recognized in the House because I support them in any way I can and just to show my support, be more proactive and make sure the youth of my riding are involved in this.

Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker, and have a good morning. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Youth committees are usually the beginning of a political career, so keep it up.

Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeegok.

**Member's Statement 089 – 6(2):
Happy 102nd Birthday to Qapik
Attagutsiak**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I send my condolences to the Kuluguqtuq family.

Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, Qapik Attagutsiak turned 102. The community of Arctic Bay celebrated her birthday together and had a community feast in

celebration of her birthday. She is now 102 years old and I wanted to congratulate her on that.

With the availability and convenience of computers and social media, we are now able to remotely watch people in other communities singing and enjoying their moments. We just felt we were participants in the community.

I am very proud of her and I want to thank her for the continued support she has provided in the community of Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 090 – 6(2): 2022
High School Graduates of
Kinngait**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of Kimmirut and Kinngait.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of yesterday, when we celebrated the graduation of grade 12 high school students from the Peter Pitseolak School in Kinngait. They are:

- Kevin Allooloo
- Iqaluk Charlie
- Ethan Manning
- Isaiah Nungusuituq
- Shawn Oqutaq
- Mary Lisa Parr
- Ashley Qavavauq
- John Qavavauq
- Kathy Sharkey
- Joyce Tunnillie

- Josh Wortman

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate their graduation along with their parents and their grandparents. With the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, gatherings were cancelled, but it was wonderful to be able to finally celebrate the graduates with a ceremony yesterday in Kinngait.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Education, who was able to visit the community along with the President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Olayuk Akesuk. After the ceremonies, they had a tour to a beautiful spot as people honked their horns.

I am very proud of these graduates and I hope they have a good future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations to your graduates. Members' Statements.
Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Member's Statement 091 – 6(2):
Recognizing Eekeeluak Avalak of
Cambridge Bay**

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to Iqaluktuutiarmit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share special congratulations to Eekeeluak Avalak, who received the gold medal yesterday in the national Greco-Roman wrestling in Edmonton, Alberta.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it's an honour and such a joy to see our youth participating and being positive role models.

Eekeeluak competed in the under 19, 55-kilogram division and he also received a bronze for freestyle in wrestling as well earlier last week. This is his last national high school tournament. However, a few weeks ago, Eekeeluak also participated in world trials and placed sixth in the world trials event and he received the outstanding award. Mr. Speaker, the next steps for Eekeeluak are going to be participating in the Canada Summer Games.

I would also like to thank his coach, Chris Crooks, who has put in a lot of time and energy into who Eekeeluak is, not only as a person but as a wrestler, and has really helped shape and transform his life into a positive one.

I am so proud to see our youth succeeding and I know the community of Cambridge Bay is equally as proud of Eekeeluak, and I would like to say "all the best" to him and our future Canada Summer Games participants. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 092 – 6(2):
Recognizing Outgoing and
Incoming Constituency Assistants**

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge two individuals from Baker Lake; the first one is Gabriel

Nagyougalik, who is a young individual who worked in my constituency office.

I spoke with Gabriel in the office and talked about what he will be studying as a youth. Since he was a child he has enjoyed computers since he was a child and has been an avid enthusiast of information technology, which is what he will be studying. I would like to thank you for your support to me in our constituency office in Baker Lake.

I would also like to acknowledge Daisy Kataluk, who just completed Arctic College in Baker Lake in administrative studies. She is now working in my constituency office in Baker Lake and will now reside in Iqaluit alongside me. If you want to call, the number is 793-4949 in Baker Lake. She is constantly messaging me, and if you want to visit the office, my office is located at the old Co-op building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 093 – 6(2):
Recognizing Joyce Alariak
Attagutluk of Igloodik**

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to express my pride and my gratitude to a resident of Igloodik.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge Joyce Alariak Attagutluk. She drafted her own proposal to receive funds to teach young people how to make winter clothing like parkas that she

had done in the community. I would like to express my gratitude to her for being able to submit this proposal on her own.

I urge anyone who may want to submit a proposal for any activity they want to do, like sewing traditional clothing, to be able to pass on traditions.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Joyce Alariak Attagutluk. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member's Statement 094 – 6(2):
Recognizing an Arviat Elder**

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. First of all, there was a recent graduation ceremony in Arviat this past Saturday. I would like to express my gratitude. My colleague mentioned their names already, but I think that you are very capable and I encourage you to continue your education. I thank the tireless educators.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, although it was the weekend, I was able to come here with a resident of Arviat. Mary Anowtalik Ayaq visited the Legislative Assembly building along with her daughter and toured the Assembly here. She was really happy to be given a tour. When you see people smile, it makes you smile too. She saw all of the offices and she did her prayer here too in the Assembly, and she also gave me advice on what more positive work I might be able to do. I thank her for that.

Mr. Speaker, when she entered the Assembly, she recognized everything here that she had seen on TV, and though you are in your Chair, Mr. Speaker, she sat on the Speaker's Chair and she said that from now on she will be more of a leader. All I could do was agree with her.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, pictures were taken of her sitting on the *qamutiik* on the floor. I didn't think you would mind, Mr. Speaker, she being an elder and we can smile at that. It was great to see this.

Ayaq was constantly pushing to have people obey the pandemic rules and she still expresses that to young people.

I am very grateful that Ayaq was able to visit this building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Yes, our elders are so important.

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 095 – 6(2): 2022
High School Graduates of Iqaluit**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. I hope everybody is enjoying their Monday and I would like to thank Mr. Speaker for saving the best for last.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join our Minister of Education as well as our

colleagues around the table today in celebrating Nunavut's grads.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit's Inuksuk High School has set a new record and this year has 82 potential high school graduates.

Mr. Speaker, the grads are starting their final exams today and I'm sure will have a very stressful week ahead of them, but I look forward to the day that we can test the Assembly's capacity limits and formally recognize a graduating class here in the Assembly.

Anyway, I just want to say "congratulations" to all of the graduates in Iqaluit and across Nunavut. You have done it. You have reached the end of grade 12, and I look forward to seeing our youth progress as they achieve their future endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations to all of the graduates.

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 090 – 6(2):
Initiatives to Combat Bootlegging**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question 90 – 6(2) asked by the Member for Hudson Bay on June 2, 2022 concerning the initiatives to combat bootlegging.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for

transcribing into the *Hansard* for the public record and for distribution to all members.

Question:

Can the minister clarify the extent to which the Government of Nunavut works with Transport Canada and the airlines to address the issue of illegal alcohol entering the communities?

Answer:

Government of Nunavut Departments

There are various types of legal transportation of alcohol to and throughout the territory. This transportation is regulated under the Nunavut *Liquor Act*, which is an Act that falls under the Department of Finance.

The Department of Justice is currently conducting research to identify roles and responsibilities related to alcohol transportation within the territory in collaboration with other government partners. Once this information is gathered, it will be used to determine the best steps forward to address communications and awareness within communities as well as coordinate the appropriate partners.

Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) Baggage Searches

The *Aeronautics Act*, the *Canadian Air Transport Security Authority Act*, and the *Canadian Aviation Security Regulations* sets out a specific role for CATSA. The role of CATSA is to screen access to aircrafts and restricted areas of airports to reduce threats to aviation by ensuring weapons and other prohibited

items that threaten the safety of flights are not on board. To maintain effective screening at a location, they have to screen every passenger, which includes all carry-on and checked baggage going between screened airports.

Recognizing that CATSA is given extensive search authority over so many citizens, there are corresponding limitations placed on how the results of their searches can be used. Accordingly, they cannot use their searches to provide evidence to enforce other statutes or policies. This includes the territorial *Liquor Act*.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

In addition, the RCMP does not have the authority to search luggage or parcels unless there is reason to do so. This requires the support of Nunavummiut to provide information to the RCMP "V" Division and their local detachments if they are aware of any illegal transportation or sale of alcohol.

Nunavummiut have a role to play in the wellness and safety of our communities. If anyone has information that could support the RCMP in investigating and combating the illegal transportation or sale of alcohol within the territory, they are asked to call their local detachments or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, do you have returns to oral questions? Okay. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Gross.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr.

Speaker. I am pleased to acknowledge and welcome Dr. Colin Irwin as a visitor to our Assembly today. This is the first time Colin has been here since he first came to the Canadian arctic in 1971 to sail through the Northwest Passage. That year, he sailed around Alaska and got as far as Cambridge Bay.

At the invitation of the mayor, the late Billy Lyall, Colin was placed with a hunter's family, Qaumajuk, as he wanted to learn from Inuit of how to travel, hunt and live off of the land.

Qaumajuk taught Colin the skills he needed to be able to run his own dogs from Cambridge Bay to Gjoa Haven, and what is now Spence Bay, that following spring. Colin never completed his voyage through the Northwest Passage, but he did cross Arctic North America from Resolute Bay to Alaska with dogs and Inuit companions the following year; 50 years after Rasmussen made the same trip.

Next year will be the 100th anniversary of that expedition. If Franklin and his men had known what Colin was taught, they might have lived, as Colin was able to do this because he had been taken in by the family of Mahik and Qaumajuk. He even married Qunga and moved to Rankin Inlet where he worked for the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

Colin wrote a report, *Lords of the Arctic, Wards of the State*, which stirred debate in Canada that fueled discussions on land claim negotiations. Colin has told me he takes teachings from Inuit

consensus decision making, sharing when they have nothing, and respect for the environment to work toward peace building with governments, the United Nations, and others.

Having worked with the elders in Cambridge Bay and hearing reminiscence of his voyage, it is a pleasure to welcome him here today, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the Assembly. We'll take a minute. Okay. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 144 – 6(2): Boarding Home Concerns

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

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

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that services at the Tammaativvik Boarding Home are provided by a contractor, and I appreciate that the Department of Health works with the contractor to address complaints as they arise. However, it seems that some problems are consistent.

The boarding home is often overcrowded and if there is no room for patients when they come in from the communities, they have to go to a hotel.

Can the minister clarify how his department works with the contractor to prioritize who gets a room at the boarding home and who has to stay at a hotel? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for that question. Yes, the Tammaativvik is a residence for medical travel patients. It is too small. We require hotels on a regular basis. It is recognized that there isn't enough in the facility. The contractors that operate the place find accommodations in the various hotels. We make every attempt to accommodate elders and individuals with disabilities at the boarding home.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are times that the boarding home may already be full. When this is the case, elders, people with disabilities and all other patients are booked to stay in hotels. If there are any concerns or complaints, we would very much encourage people to contact us as we would like to continue to hear about them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our elders should be prioritized when it comes to getting a room at the boarding home. I have been informed that many elders and their escorts are being placed in hotels. When it comes to meal times, they call for pick up and often have to wait well over an hour or the meals are not delivered at all.

Can the minister indicate whether or not elders are identified as priority travellers when it comes to staying at the boarding home and getting their meals on time? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can certainly say that elders are a priority in my mind, Mr. Speaker, but when it comes to the medical travel system, currently we don't have a formal tracking system that would say "this traveller is traveling with an infant, this traveller is travelling with an elder." We don't have a categorization. Most of the services that are available to medical travellers are kind of on a universal basis.

In terms of the boarding home, I do know that there are some instances where the boarding home will give priority to elders in terms the staying at the boarding home but I cannot say that there is a formal policy in place as it comes to that measure.

As the member mentioned, it is operated by a contractor. We work very closely with the contractors of all of our boarding homes to make sure that the services are meeting the needs of our clients. Obviously within the Department of Health, my staff want to want provide the best level of service to our elders and other medical travellers.

Through this, we remain open to any suggestions on how to improve the travel experience. The key problem with the boarding home, Mr. Speaker, is that it is too small for the number of travellers

that we currently experiencing.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would really like for the concerns and complaints that are being submitted regarding elders and medical travel to be addressed and improved upon.

One particular area of concern is the fact that medical travel clients who end up staying in hotels are still required to pick up their meals from Tammaativvik on their own.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many of our elders are unilingual or not comfortable speaking English, especially when they are on medical travel. I have heard that the staff at the front desk of the boarding home doesn't always speak Inuktitut, which makes it even more difficult for our elders.

Can the minister confirm that the contractor should ensure that Inuktitut speaking staff are working in the front desk of the Tammaativvik boarding home? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am saddened to hear about the concern and that it continues to be a concern. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a number of years ago the issue of Inuktitut language service provision was red flagged as an issue and that considerable improvements had been put

in place for unilingual travellers. In terms of the front desk staff, that is generally the expectation; that there will be somebody who can speak Inuktitut there.

We currently don't have the language of service spelled out within the contract, but that's something that we are working on as a department in terms of trying to formalize that they need to have Inuktitut speaking staff to meet the needs of the client. That is something that the Department of Health is working on getting into the contract with our boarding home operator here in Iqaluit so that it will be formalized; so that it will be required and available at all times.

Mr. Speaker, Tammaativvik does prioritize elders by reserving rooms on the main floor of the facility that meet their specific needs, including wheelchair access, easy entrance washrooms and accommodations without stairs. So the boarding home is giving some priority to elders. Thank you very much to the member for bringing those concerns. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 145 – 6(2): Kivalliq Airport Terminal Buildings

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. It concerns the issue of airport terminal buildings in the Kivalliq.

As the minister will recall, his department issued a request for tender on March 29, 2022 for the construction of three new airport terminal buildings in Chesterfield Inlet, Naujaat, and Whale Cove. The tender closed in early May. Last month, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that his department is currently “in deep discussion” with Transport Canada concerning the tender.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of the tender? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff are currently still meeting with Transport Canada. We still haven’t concluded. Although the tender has closed, we still have some work to do, but we haven’t finalized our plan yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department’s request for tender bundled the three Kivalliq airport terminal projects in a single tender. I recently received concerns from the Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet regarding the replacement of the airport terminal building. The mayor has requested that the government issue a separate tender for the Chesterfield Inlet airport terminal building replacement project, in the event that the most recent procurement process is unsuccessful.

Will the minister consider issuing a separate tender for the three airport buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently the tender is closed. We have not decided, but we want this project to proceed, and if we cannot proceed with the initial plan, then we’ll have to figure out acceptable alternatives. In working with Transport Canada, we want to see this move forward, but currently we cannot say that we are going another route. That’s where we are, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month the minister also informed the Legislative Assembly that his department has been in discussions with Transport Canada concerning the Rankin Inlet airport terminal building expansion project. Can the minister clarify if the Rankin Inlet airport terminal building project is being delayed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Rankin Inlet project will proceed. We will seek supplementary appropriations in 2024-25. We will let Transport Canada know about this intention and that we expect that the infrastructure projects will be a bit more expensive. I can confirm that

we are still currently proceeding with this project in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 146 – 6(2): Medical Travel Benefits for Government Employees

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't speak with my colleague from Tununiq, but I believe that we share similar concerns. Those concerns have to do with the Minister of Health regarding my need for clarification on clients that go on medical travel, so we can better understand the medical travel process.

Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that there are significant issues occurring for people who go on medical travel, and it has to do with confusion around accommodations. More specifically, it has to do with Tammaativvik clients that sometimes end up having to stay elsewhere. In particular; if the client or escort is a government employee, they are not placed in Tammaativvik, but instead automatically get booked to stay at a hotel.

(interpretation ends) Those that are required to stay at hotels pay upfront for it, and for their meals and transportation. Other Inuit from the communities can stay at the boarding homes and their meals and transportation taken care of.

Can the minister clearly explain why this difference exists? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker. The medical travel assistance benefits are the ones that are eligible for Government of Nunavut employees. It includes travel accommodations and meals. It's through that medical travel assistance program, through which Nunavut government employees are cared for, in terms of medical travel. That program is facilitated by the Department of Health on behalf of the Department of Finance.

The benefits for the employees come from their status as a worker for the Government of Nunavut, and that's through the Department of Finance. The Department of Finance has given us delegation to administer that program, in terms of the travel, accommodation, and meals. We do understand that in some cases it may be difficult to pay upfront the cost of accommodations, but we do cover travel up front so, that is booked by our department. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As that is the case, I understand that they are eligible to be reimbursed for the money they paid up front as long as they save and submit the receipts. Although this may be the case, they still have other problems. The goal should be to reduce the amount of problems the employees encounter while involved with medical travel.

Not every government employee has a credit card, and many do not have enough money in their pockets to be able to pay meals for themselves or their escorts while they are away from home, especially if they had to escort a family member in an emergency situation. I understand that they can be reimbursed.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister describe what supports his department provides to ensure that medical clients who travel to receive health care can afford to eat while they are travelling and get transportation to their appointments? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The health travel program's regional medical travel offices arrange airline transportation and hotel reservations on behalf of GN employees, so all expenses are reconciled back to Finance, as I mentioned earlier.

Prepaid meals and ground transportation are not available under any circumstance. There are travel advances that are available to employees through the Department of Finance. If an employee is unable to cover the expenses that they will be incurring on the ground, such as meals and transport, they are able request a travel advance in advance of their travel. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that accommodations in some cases are prepaid by the department, unless I am mistaken, Mr. Speaker.

I think it might depend on how long in advance the travel's been booked in

terms of whether or not the government can pay the hotel or whether the client or the employees are paying the hotel up front and claiming a reimbursement afterwards. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that this information is given to the clients ahead of time so that the employees will know what to expect, what benefits are available to them, or what they will have to pay up front when they are coming down here for medical reasons. Perhaps there should be a number that they should be able to call to get the information.

To reemphasize and ensure that the medical travel clients will be fully informed, (interpretation ends) will the minister look into providing cash advances or even meal vouchers or taxi vouchers so that medical clients who are government employees and their escorts do not face financial burdens when they are on medical travel? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can definitely look into that in terms of what we can do. As I mentioned, there is an advance that can be accessed if employees know that they are going to need the resources to pay for meals and incidentals, such as ground transportation.

I can definitely look into that in terms of what we can do as a government to support the medical travellers, because we know that medical issues are very stressful, and the last thing that we want is for financial issues causing additional stress on our medical travellers, whether they are Government of Nunavut employees or others. In terms of the member's suggestion, I will definitely look into that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 147 – 6(2): Time Change

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the new Minister of Justice. As the minister will recall, both the members for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet raised concerns during the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly regarding the issue of seasonal time change.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department is responsible for time zone regulations made under the authority of the *Legislation Act*. These regulations state that the clock currently needs to be changed in March and November of each year.

Both my colleague and I suggested that the government should consider ending the practice. What is the new minister's position on this issue? (interpretation) 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. Currently, we do not have a position on it. We are not engaging in any discussions regarding changes to daylight savings time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) As the minister will be aware, a number of Canadian provinces and territories are considering ending the practice of changing the clock. Our neighbours in the Northwest Territories have recently undertaken the public consultation process on this issue. Can the minister indicate what discussions he has had with his NWT counterpart on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Currently, I have not had any consultations with my territorial counterpart, but should the need arise, I will have the discussion with my counterpart over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Will the minister

commit to undertaking a formal public consultation on this issue? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just like that question and answer; nice and short.

>> *Laughter*

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes. You may be seated if you need to ask your questions.

**Question 148 – 6(2): RCMP
Conducting Safety Patrols in
Iqaluit**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that consideration. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, in the summer months there are more and more people out and about and it's safer to be outside for extended periods of time where it's not minus 50.

Mr. Speaker, last summer the RCMP here in Iqaluit did a number of visits through the beach area. They would do inspections and take a look at the area on their ATVs.

My first question to the minister is: has the minister or his staff had discussions with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to conduct such tours through that

area with inspections, and the like?
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. I personally, haven't had that discussion yet, but I do know that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police here in Iqaluit are planning on doing foot patrols again this coming summer. It was very well received by the members of the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is reading my mind; my next question was regarding the foot patrols around the city, as recent media coverage and occurrences have happened such a children throwing rocks at vehicles, vandalism, and other things around the city; public intoxication.

In addition to the foot and ATV patrols in the beach area, has the minister had an opportunity to discuss with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or has his staff had discussions with them on any different ideas that the city can participate in on how to alleviate some of these occurrences and track them?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, they are continually looking at alternative ways on how they can make any improvements. I do know

that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have had discussions with the city to see if they can strike a partnership with the city bylaw and get more presence out in the public this coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickers.

Mr. Hickers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the last couple of years have been any indication, the amount of campers around the park area or by the causeway has increased dramatically. A lot of people haven't been travelling in the last couple of years, so there have been a lot more people taking advantage of the summer months, camping and sometimes there's disruptions and it's not always the best experience. Would the minister be willing to speak with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to step up patrols in that area as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, we will be speaking with the Royal Canadian Mounted to see exactly where they should be patrolling, where they might want to patrol.

With the summer months coming up and people wanting to out, yes, they'll be camping and we should provide the assistance and the services that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 149 – 6(2): Breakwater for Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish you could ask me to sit and ask my question.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation regarding the much needed breakwater in Sanirajak.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I had raised this issue a number of times in the Fifth Legislative Assembly, and I will keep mentioning it in the Sixth Legislative Assembly.

Let me start off with the Oceans Protection Plan. As the Prime Minister had announced years ago, Canada is investing \$1.5 billion for the next five years. My first question is: is Economic Development and Transportation working collaboratively with Oceans Protection Plan when it comes to the much-needed breakwater in Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Speaker. The Oceans Protection Plan, when they did their first call, we put a submission for a Nunavut-wide marine scoping for marine docks and ports for every community. That work is still ongoing, and we are eagerly waiting for the next call for the Oceans Protection Plan for our next submissions. We're hoping that putting in submissions for

ports and docks throughout our territory would be the ideal next choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to elaborate on their criteria when it comes to marine and safety and the economic opportunities within our coastal communities. As Nunavummiut we're living along the coast.

I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to our economic opportunities, it would greatly benefit the Government of Nunavut and the communities. I have been encouraged by our Nunavut' Senator that I keep raising this issue. Perhaps the government can finally hear my request.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister just mentioned that it's up to Oceans Protection Plan when it comes to these major projects.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to raise that there was a marine feasibility study last year in Sanirajak, and I wonder if the minister has finally received the final report either from the Hamlet of Sanirajak, or the engineering company that had the feasibility study when it comes to the marine infrastructure plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague raised this question last week about it. My response

hasn't changed. We have not received the report yet. We anticipate that we will get the report, but we haven't received it yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's unfortunate to hear. I'll encourage the hamlet to make sure that they submit their report.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, can I get an assurance from the Minister of Economic Development that this much needed economic opportunity will be discussed when it comes to capital plans? I would like to get an assurance from the minister while we're sitting in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always viewed that ports and docks are a federal jurisdiction and we continue to do this. With the Oceans Protection Plan, that particular funding pot that the federal government has made available is 100 percent vote 4. So we wouldn't need to make any approvals through this House because vote 4 tends to be strictly federal dollars.

So that is one thing that we're trying to advocate through the Oceans Protection Plan. I'm very hopeful that through the next call, that we'll be able to get more because Nunavut deserves more throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Question 150 – 6(2): Family Abuse Intervention Act

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice. I want to follow up on the subject of his department's work to review the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

As the minister is aware, this is an issue about which I care very deeply, and about which I will continue to speak very passionately on; some days probably more than others.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge and recognize that the Department of Justice has been undertaking work in recent months to review the legislation, and I hope that the public consultations here in Iqaluit went well and were well attended.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to consider amendments to improve and strengthen the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

Can the minister provide a clear timeline for when he will be introducing a bill into the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister Akeegok has got me almost saying "Mr. Chairman."

Yes, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* is a very serious issue and I appreciate the member's advocacy on the subject because it is a shame that it had to come to this, where we had to introduce something like this.

Currently, we don't have a timeline. The department is currently reviewing the consultations and we're aiming to finish the process of reviewing the consultation by end of this calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, a major report concerning the issue of access to Justice for family and intimate partner violence in Nunavut was released in December 2021, less than a year ago.

Pauktuutit, the Law Society of Nunavut and other partners worked together to produce this important report. One of the findings of the report indicated that "While the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* has provided support to women experiencing family violence through such tools as the emergency protection order, research revealed limited awareness and understanding about how the law can be used to confront family violence and legal options available under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Women raised concerns about delays in the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* process, expressed fears of reprisal from the abuser or other community members, and worried that abusers may not comply with the Family Abuse Intervention Orders."

Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department's current review of the legislation is taking into account findings of this report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman or Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member; that level of detail, I do not have on hand. I will have to get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good decisions need to be based on information that is current and up to date. As the minister is aware, section 11 of the Family Abuse Intervention regulations prescribes the information that is required by law to be contained in the annual report to the Legislative Assembly under section 49 of the statute.

The 2019-2020 report annual report was tabled in the House in November 2020; almost two years ago. What assurances can the minister provide that the 2020-21 and 2021-22 report will be ready for tabling on the first day of our upcoming fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department continues to work on trying to get the reports finished as soon as possible and tabled as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 151 – 6(2): Community Transportation Initiatives Program

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my oral questions, (interpretation) today, June 13, it is our elder, Louis Iluittuq's, birthday. I would like to wish him a happy birthday, and I hope that he has a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and they concern his department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program.

Mr. Speaker, during last Monday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister made a statement concerning this important program. At that time, he indicated that his department "tries to commit all of the funds early in the summer so that communities can get an early start on these much needed projects."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which the current inflation and supply chain issues that are impacting the government's procurement and contracting activities are also affecting the ability of municipalities to successfully undertake projects funded under the Community Transportation

Initiatives Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to apologize to you; after having two straight days of going straight to Committee of the Whole, we often think of Mr. Chairman, as we continued. I do apologize for making some of these mistakes in this House, so very sorry for you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Transportation Initiatives Program; proposals come straight from the hamlet, and not necessarily from the contractors. I don't see any necessary connections, in terms of the costs for the contractors. Every project throughout the territory, and throughout the country, and probably the world, has been impacted by inflation that's taking place right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program policy was last updated in August 2015, and the policy formally sun-setted in March 2020. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify when the policy will next be reviewed, and can he indicate what specific changes to the policy are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't anticipate a whole lot of changes, if there need to be any changes. This is a very successful program that our department carries within our municipalities. I know money is always tight. With this program, a lot of good infrastructure gets built by the hamlets on the access roads or marine facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister recently tabled the 2019-2020 annual report on the administration of his department's Community Transportation Initiatives Program.

Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the report with care, and I was very happy to note that three projects in Kugaaruk and Taloyoak received over a quarter of a million dollars in funding during the fiscal year.

Can the minister confirm how many projects in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk received funding during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quickly trying to find the document here, but I don't have it immediately with me, but I will definitely, as our department on an annual basis tables this document.

I would encourage that for any of the work that has been taking place will go

through that. If anyone wants to know what projects have been approved for this year or last year, my office is always open. I have that level of detail in my office, but not necessarily in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 152 – 6(2): Civilian Employees of the RCMP

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, have a great morning.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Justice minister. During the Justice minister's appearance in Committee of the Whole, the question was asked about the four civilian positions working for the RCMP in the communities. The minister stated that he was going to get back to the House of where these positions were located.

I would like to ask the minister now, now that he has had a good while to look into it: where are these four civilian positions in the communities located? Thank you.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got it right that time. We are preparing correspondence on the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister should be able to

just tell us where these four positions are unless these positions are migrating from one community to another. We can have more details in the response, but can the minister tell the House now where these four positions are located. Unless they have been moving around the minister should know: where are these four civilian positions in the communities located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the minister would agree with me that Arviat has a lot of unilingual Inuktitut speaking residents. I'm not sure... . The minister appears not to know where these positions are right now, but would the minister commit to having one of these positions in Arviat if it's not already in Arviat. Maybe it's in Arviat and I'm not hearing, but it's not filled, but will the minister commit to putting one of these positions in Arviat if it is not already there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I applaud his advocacy for looking after his constituents.

With regard to placing one member into his community, that will be looked into

and responded to when the need arises. Fortunately for his constituency, some communities have a higher need for that extra member, which could be a good thing for his community, actually, that the need isn't greater there.

At this time, I can't say where it is going to be, or if he is going to get one this summer or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 153 – 6(2): Traffic Safety Act

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you again for saving best for last.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in this sitting I had posed questions the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation regarding the enforcement of the *Traffic Safety Act*. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask questions to the Minister of Justice on the same topic.

In the previous Assembly, we had passed Nunavut's *Traffic Safety Act*, which included some significant amendments, one of which is an important provision in the legislation regarding distracted driving.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Iqaluit issued a public service announcement earlier last month concerning what it describes as "frequent contraventions of the rules of the road" including the issue of distracted driving.

I would like to ask if the minister can describe how his department works with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and

municipal bylaw officials to enforce this provision of the *Traffic Safety Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has minimal contact with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

As he had mentioned, it falls under Economic Development and Transportation safety Act, but wherever we can, we try to work with each other to see where improvements can be made and try to protect our people from distracted drivers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very confident that the minister will agree when I say that impaired driving is completely unacceptable under any circumstances.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lightstone: Impaired driving also includes driving while under the influence of cannabis, other drugs, or alcohol. As the minister will recall, the Government of Canada announced \$968,000 in support to the Government of Nunavut to support law enforcement by training and equipping them with standardized field sobriety testing and drug recognition expert evaluation to detect and deter drug impaired drivers, as well as enforcing new driving offences.

Mr. Speaker, this funding is also intended to be used to develop standardized data collection and reporting practices that will be used to analyze trends, identify gaps, and provide an accurate picture of drug impaired driving in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the minister can describe how his department has been involved in this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question and I agree. Any type of impaired driving I am totally against. We all have children out there that are playing out in the streets and they should be able to play out there safely.

The funding that the member is referring to was announced in 2019 and it was towards drug impaired driving. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were tasked to take the training to train the officers on how to use the equipment. Unfortunately due to COVID, none of the members were able to go south for the training, but moving forward, the department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is in discussions with the federal government on how we can use these funds to better support the members and deter drug impaired driving within the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the

minister for that response. I look forward to the minister providing an update in the House at a later date as to when that training is provided to our local RCMP officers.

Mr. Speaker, I share a concern with the City of Iqaluit on the risks associated with frequent contraventions of the rules of the road and the *Traffic Safety Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard many complaints of unsafe driving. Issues such as the smell of cannabis from vehicles on the road, to empty alcohol containers being tossed out of moving vehicles onto the side of the road in such beautiful places as Upper Base, Road to Nowhere, and Sylvia Grinnell.

Mr. Speaker, as the training of standardized sobriety testing has yet to be provided to our RCMP and municipal bylaw officers, I would like to ask if the drug recognition expert evaluation detection has been provided to deter impaired drug drivers, as well as if the RCMP and the Department of Justice have been able to develop standardized data collection and reporting practices to enable them to analyze trends with regard to drug impaired driving in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. With regard to the equipment, I personally don't know if we have that on hand now, but any training and whatnot will be coming and hopefully used properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 154 – 6(2): Dental Services for Children

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, on June 2, my colleague from Iqaluit-Tasiluk asked questions regarding dental surgeries for children. The minister indicated that there is quite a backlog and that dental services for children at the Qikiqtani General Hospital have more than doubled for 2022 to try to catch up.

Can the minister describe what steps were taken in order for the Qikiqtani General Hospital to be able to increase its capacity to provide dental surgeries for children and youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We too are concerned about this as a department. The waiting list for children who are waiting for dental services that require general anesthetics is quite large. We are concerned. We are working with our partners to support children on a larger scale to deal with them. There are different places; here in Iqaluit, Ottawa, Churchill, Manitoba, Winnipeg, and Edmonton provide services.

We have increased the numbers at the Qikiqtani General Hospital to 11 weeks. We have increased the numbers to 25.

We run the hospital here through our territorial health system. We were able to add services to the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his response to my colleague on June 2, the minister indicated that dental surgery services are also provided in Churchill, Manitoba for approximately 12 to 15 weeks per year. I would also like to thank the minister for his letter to me on April 19, 2022, indicating that there were approximately 1,800 dental clinic clients sent to Churchill in 2021 and 2022.

Can the minister explain how his department decides whether to send children to Churchill or to Iqaluit for dental surgery? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Health, I am not a dentist, and I cannot tell you details of their appointments such as where they are going to go for their appointments. However, I can look into it, and come back with that information. The issue is that although we are looking at the best services available in Iqaluit, Ottawa, Churchill, Winnipeg, or Edmonton, the waiting list is very long. We will be shipping patients out to as many of the facilities as possible in order to reduce the waiting lists. They are not numbers, they're children. These are real children that need care, but their numbers are too numerous.

(interpretation ends) We use every single opportunity that we can to get those children the dental services that they need, no matter where they're available. Anywhere they're available; we will send them there because it's really an issue of concern for us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe with my next question, we'll be able to help them out. Mr. Speaker, there are currently two dental clinics in Rankin Inlet. There is also a well-equipped regional health centre. I'm glad that the Department of Health has been able to increase the delivery of dental surgery services at the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Will the minister consider expanding the types of dental services offered in the community of Rankin Inlet so that more dental surgeries can be performed in Rankin Inlet, closer to home for our children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of whether or not we could offer those services in Rankin Inlet, right now I am unable to say. Having general anaesthetic services for children requires specialized staff, and requires specialized infrastructure space that currently doesn't exist in Rankin Inlet. If we were to head in that direction, it would be quite a large undertaking in terms of bringing on additional staffing capacity, additional development of the infrastructure capacity, both of which are

currently stretched. We're stretched right now, trying to provide the services that we currently offer, due to worldwide human resource issues in health professionals.

I can reassure the member that the Department of Health is working on this issue in terms of general anaesthetic services for children and we are looking in every direction for ways of making improvements and we can offer more services to Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 155 – 6(2): Decentralization

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, our Premier.

On Friday I asked about the decentralized communities that I represent. Neither of the communities that I represent are decentralized. I am wondering whether the government is planning for more decentralization to the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, my fellow MLA. He is right that we look at smaller communities. Currently, I can state that we are not making plans in this area, but in the coming months we will be looking at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier, for that response. The smaller communities need to benefit. We fall behind larger communities in Nunavut. Why is the government, or the Premier, not planning to support the smaller communities and why is this not a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you again. Yes, we realize the importance of this issue. Currently, we are negotiating Devolution, and it has been a priority to date, and we are following this process. We are looking at it, and once we agree on a plan to acquire some positions in the coming months, we will then be reviewing the model to see where and if there are any changes that can be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Premier for that response. In many of the positions in the government that have been created, there are too many positions that are not filled. I asked the minister if it is possible within of Nunavut, if there is connectivity, to work remotely. The pandemic illustrated that this was possible, so I would like for the government to consider that the location of jobs can be done anywhere now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my fellow member. I totally agree that COVID-19 taught us a lot about working remotely and the work that our workforce was able to do from home. We will review this; it is one of our priorities to fill those vacant positions. We are looking to fill as many positions with Inuit as possible, and it's clear that Inuit in the communities want to work. We understand your concern, and expect to be able to report to you in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 156 – 6(2):
Telecommunications in the North**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern the issue of telecommunications in the north.

As the minister will be aware, the Canadian Radio, Television, and Telecommunications Commission issued a formal notice of consultation on Wednesday of last week. The commission announced that it will be holding major public hearings later this year on the subject of telecommunications in the north, and it has invited stakeholders and the general public to provide submissions concerning what actions the commission should be taking to improve telecommunication services in our region of the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely critical that our voice be heard at this proceeding. Can the minister confirm today that the Government of Nunavut will be making a formal submission to the commission and will be requesting to appear before it at the upcoming hearing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The CRTC; we are looking at the options to present around this initiative, and we will be responding as necessary to engage Nunavummiut through this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Thank you to the member for that response. In its notice of consultation, the Canadian Radio, Television, and Telecommunications Commission indicates that "...many rural and remote communities are chronically underserved by internet technologies. We recognize that the Canadian telecommunication system plays an important role in the reconciliation of Indigenous Peoples with Canadian society. As an outcome of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, several calls of action were made.

In response to call to action number 7, the Government of Canada stated that it wants to improve access to educational and economic opportunities that rely upon affordable, high quality internet services. The Government of Canada

also stated that it wants to contribute to the preservation, restoration, and dissemination of Indigenous languages and culture in response to call to action number 13. Both objectives can be supported by access to affordable, reliable high quality internet services."

Mr. Speaker, I strongly agree with this. Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department's fibre project may be impacted by the commission's work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to the goal to meet the Canadian Radio, Television, and Telecommunication Commission's target of 50 over 10 megabits per second to all Nunavut communities over the next 10 years.

We are proceeding with the Nunavut Katittuq Fibre Undersea project, and that was recently announced on the routing, and the request for proposal is out on that project. We are very excited to get that important infrastructure online for Nunavummiut. It will definitely have a tremendous and significant impact, not just for Iqaluit but the other Nunavut communities that rely on satellite internet.

We are expecting over the coming years, once that fibre is on-line, it will be a great improvement to telecommunications or cellphone networks will be optimized to those tremendous levels. So we are committed to that and hopefully in the next three

years we will have that fibre project on-line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday of last week, the minister's department issued its latest request for proposals concerning the Katittuq Nunavut Fibre Undersea fibre optic cable system project. It was a very busy Wednesday for everyone.

In response to questions asked by my colleague representing Iqaluit-Tasiluk, the minister recently informed the Legislative Assembly that he and his departments have been in talks with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated concerning the signing of a nondisclosure agreement concerning the fibre project. Can the minister update the House today on the status of these discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The non-disclosure agreement that my department and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have been going back and forth with, is very close to execution, but that work is on-going when we have new developments, I will be sure to inform my colleagues around that initiative as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend

question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are none. Question period is now extended for another 30 minutes.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerk.

Question 157 – 6(2): Vaccine Mandate

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question to the health minister, pertaining to the vaccine mandate.

As we all know, we are still required to wear our masks when we enter government buildings. My first question to the health minister with the vaccine mandates is: is the health department the only department that has regulated that vaccine mandate within other department or are all the departments required to have a vaccine mandate when it comes to our safety and security for public servants and offices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) The member is correct. The Department of Health is currently, to my knowledge... Well, I can only speak for the Department of Health, the only department that's implemented a mandatory vaccination policy.

We implemented it on November 29, 2021 and it's been quite a lot of work for our department staff to implement, and I commend them for their continued efforts in terms of collecting the proof of vaccination from our employees. Our current position is that we will continue to have this vaccine mandate in place for the Department of Health for the foreseeable future. I would like to commend all our employees for getting their shots and helping our human resource staff with collecting their information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information on that, minister. Since it's a mandated requirement for the Department of Health, to be vaccinated, another question arose in my mind. How many nurses or staff within the Department of Health are vaccinated? Is there a statistic or a number? I would be glad to hear how this mandate is going in terms of our safety. Since it is a requirement for staff, does the Department of Health or the minister have this statistic if there is a number? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) In terms of the data collected to date, Health Human Resources continues to work actively to collect proof of vaccination from Health employees. As of May 12, of the 1,328 Health employees the policy applies to, Health has received 931 proof of vaccination

certificates, or roughly 70 percent, Mr. Speaker. However, the percentages are considerably higher. If we look at indeterminate employees, we are looking at 85 percent of proof of vaccination received, and our casual pool; 79 percent, and we continue to work to collect that needed information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you providing that. So if it's mandatory for the staff to be vaccinated at the Health department, my next question is: what has happened to those staff within the health department who are not vaccinated, while we have been encouraged by the Health department to get vaccinated or boosted?

When COVID hit us over the last two years, what happens to those staff who are not vaccinated? Is there disciplinary action happening, or what is the policy in place when it comes to vaccinated people or partially vaccinated people, if the minister could explain that to the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There is a process in place for dealing with employees who can request exemptions to the policy. To date there has been one request for an exemption. To date, no Health employees have refused to provide their proof of vaccination, and to date no Health employees have been accommodated due to medical or religious exemption, but there are measures in place due to

medical or religious issues. If employees are unable to be vaccinated, then they can be accommodated and those matters are handled through employee relations, Mr. Speaker.

It is already a condition of employment for many Health employees to have up-to-date vaccinations and other types of vaccinations as well as COVID. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 158 – 6(2): Civilian Employees of the RCMP

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the Justice minister again, as the minister appears to be confused about my question in his response.

Mr. Speaker, I was asking the minister about the four civilian positions, not a new member in Arviat. So I would just like to confirm if the member is looking at, if there is not already a civilian position for Arviat in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police office; not a member, a civilian person. 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 and clarification. Yes, I apologize. I did mix the two. As to the civilian workers, I will get back to the member as to whether or not Arviat is on the list or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 159 – 6(2): Citizenship Exams

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question today is for the Minister responsible for Immigration.

As the minister, I'm sure, is very aware, there have been many delays in examinations for citizenship across the country, but especially here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it has been well over a year since citizenship exams have been available here in Iqaluit for many residents that have chosen to make Canada and Nunavut their home.

Can the minister provide an update of when those examinations are expected to be reinstated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking the question. I couldn't agree more. The people that come to Canada, especially to Nunavut, make our communities that much richer, and I am so thankful for their contributions in terms of them.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have that level of detail with me right now, but I can commit to getting back to the member on that specific question. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister would be able to get

better information than I have been able to get out of the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an ongoing issue for language services here for these exams. These exams are able to be taken in French or English and the latest constituent issue that I had, they were recommending them to travel outside of the territory to Yellowknife or Ottawa to be able to access these citizenship exams.

Can the minister provide myself, when he does respond back to me with timelines of when exams, would he be available, on any other information that may be able to help my constituents access these exams in a timely manner?

We are all very aware that there are limitations on how long people can be in the country without accessing their citizenship and there are related family members, and it's a very complex issue. I don't expect the minister to have that level of detail, but I would like a commitment from the minister that he would be able to update myself, and in doing so, I can update my constituents on what to expect through the immigration process going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Immigration, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Yeah, I'll get back to the member. Thank you.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 160 – 6(2): Piquusilirivvik Operations

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my first time rising twice. I guess I will have to start doing that in the future. Thank you for the opportunity.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College and it has to do with Piquusilirivvik.

I went and visited Piquusilirivvik during our sitting, two weeks ago, and I spoke with an elder while I had the chance, to get an update on what is happening and the operations of Piquusilirivvik. According to what I heard, they requested help, and that is why I rise today.

Mr. Speaker, they're interested in working with Members of the Legislative Assembly about their meeting place and directions to proceed forward. I would like to first ask if anything has been heard on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask clarification on if I've heard anything about "this." I didn't know what "this" meant. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. If the member can help clarify. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Killiktee, please clarify your question. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm asking about this.

We were at Piquusilirivvik. Have you been notified by Piquusilirivvik that there are problems there with the operations and how the board can do more to move the building forward? That is what I'm asking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker and *quana* to our colleague for the question and for the clarification. I have not had any discussions with the Piquusilirivvik staff or anyone there at the moment. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been things mentioned to me and I would like to help them move forward with my constituents that live in Clyde River. I have had some discussions with the elders there, and especially this winter, there were problems with the weather and buildings and homes were all shut down because of the all of the snow.

It became very dangerous, according to the elders, because the snow accumulated all the way up to the roof and it would become very hard snow, and it would have been impossible for emergency services. So have you heard of any new things that may be brought up to help the situation in Clyde River?

The minister already indicated that she hasn't heard anything, so I would like to encourage the minister to come to Clyde River before the fall sitting if you could

come with me to Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. In concern with the recent past winter and the community having issues with the increased number of snow and from my understanding, it was unprecedented; the amount of snow that they received, and there were a lot of challenges with regard to the community with all of the snow that was received.

I can say that we do work to ensure that we are working with our campuses and Piquusilirivvik is one of the operations that we do want to ensure that things are running smoothly and I would be happy to visit Clyde River with our colleague when the time is right. I'm not sure if that is right before fall sitting, but I hope that we can find a time to go and visit Piquusilirivvik. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that. I want to have good expectations like that.

I'm sort of changing the subject, but in the winter time in the arctic there are many graduates and we have a whole bunch of graduates in Qikiqtarjuaq too, and I encourage you, when we go to these communities, there are people who have been working in the same positions for many years, and it would be good to have you come with me to encourage

people to pursue further education. I'm just adding this because we would have a lot of things to do and discuss if the minister was able to visit my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I think that is just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

Question 161 – 6(2): Summer Operations at Health Centres

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me again. I would like to direct my question to the Department of Health again.

In the news there was an announcement that, correct me if I'm wrong, the Kugluktuk Health Centre will be closed all summer. Can the minister explain which communities will be affected by nurses wanting to take a break? Which other communities will this affect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for the question. (interpretation ends) We are forecasting complete closures in 12 communities between June and September due to critical nursing shortages. The Department of Health is actively trying to mitigate reduced services and prevent projected complete health centre closures.

Mr. Speaker, we've been applying a variety of mitigation strategies to prevent the disruption of health services

due to staff shortages. Unfortunately, there continue to be multiple vacancies which lead to either reduced health services, or emergency services.

Mr. Speaker, I do have the latest list of communities. It's changing from week to week. Rather than list out the names of the communities and the dates here in the House, I can tell the member that in the community, notification will be given to the residents regarding either reduced services, or complete closure in advance. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a lot of communities; 12 of them. What is the Department of Health going to do? As you stated, this is due to the lack of capacity, or staff issues. What are they to do in the months of June to September? What sort of planning do you have for the communities that will be affected with the closures of their health centres, when health centres are so important in the communities? Can the minister explain what kind of planning the minister has done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the importance of health centres. I really regret that this has to happen. It's the lack of nurses.

(interpretation ends) In terms of dealing with complete closure in the communities, which I believe was the

member's question, we will have two paramedics on site, as well as support staff. We'll have out of territory virtual support to remote triage cases. In the communities with complete closures, the services will be limited to emergent, life-threatening care only.

We do have additional resources to put towards those communities, such as virtual nurse practitioners, virtual walk-in clinics, and virtual telephone triage, as well as one to three day scheduled clinics run by a doctor and a community health nurse. We have plans in place to continue trying to meet the needs, even during a complete closure.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those communities will probably go through challenging times during those months when they don't have any health centre services.

The last question I would like to ask since the communities were not mentioned is: will my two communities of Igloolik and Sanirajak not be affected by the closures? The minister stated that there are plans to do work by phone and virtually. I would like to ask the minister if he can assure me that my constituents of Igloolik and Sanirajak will not be affected by the closures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my understanding Igloolik will be affected by the closures, and it looks like

Sanirajak will not be affected. The main reason, from my understanding, Mr. Speaker, the nurses have been going through too hard of a time.

(interpretation ends) The communities have grown considerably, and as the Department of Health, we have to look into the future, to a longer term to try to get a real handle on the workload that our staff are facing in some of these communities. That would mean bringing on additional staff to try to spread the burden so that our staff are not getting burnt out, so that we're retaining more indeterminate staff, which in the longer term will benefit everyone in Nunavut, in terms of better health services.

That is, I believe, the root of what we're dealing with, along with a worldwide shortage of health professionals.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, did you have your hand up? Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 162 – 6(2): Suicide Prevention Initiatives

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that I cannot end my spring sitting without asking the Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention. It's to help Nunavummiut, and it's to help everyone who is watching and listening. Can the Minister for Suicide Prevention inform the House about what initiatives and what contribution agreements are in place for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We currently have a number of different sources for community groups when it comes to suicide prevention. We really want to support initiatives at the community level, in terms of what's available. The Upigivagitsi funding pot has annual funding of \$3.3 million available to hamlets and non-profits. We recently also launched the Atii Angutiit men's group programming tour in the Kivalliq region. As I had indicated earlier in this sitting, Mr. Speaker, we have plans to extend that tour to the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk. It's incredibly exciting.

Mr. Speaker, the community groups that carry out suicide prevention activities work on anything from safe and sober drop-in centres, to youth centres, Inuit culture based counselling, kayak programs, there are arts activities; there is a wide range of activities that all contribute to suicide prevention that are eligible for funding. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Main, for your response. Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut are beautiful people. The youth; I care for each and every one of you. Like I stated a number of times, I will not give up on this topic of suicide prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for announcing all the programs that are in place. Mr. Speaker, my second question

to the Minister for Suicide Prevention is: are there any virtual programs or anything that is in place for suicide prevention? If there are virtual programs or anything, or help, can the minister explain them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. Yes, there are virtual services that are available. One of the big programs that Nunavummiut access is the Healing by Talking Program, and that is a virtual program available to Nunavummiut.

In terms of booking an appointment, contact your local health staff. It can be a mental health worker or just a health employee that you trust, and ask them in terms of what's available and the staff will assist you and direct you to the right place to book appointments.

Unfortunately I don't have the number in front of me. There is a contact number that Nunavummiut can use to access that Healing by Talking Program, and as well, the Department of Health is increasingly offering virtual care services including mental health in some cases, and it's a very valuable avenue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Minister Main for your response. Suicide prevention is a topic that I feel has to be talked about from time to time, and I want to remind Nunavummiut, please seek help if you

need help on suicide prevention. Every soul is very, very beautiful and no matter what one's status, I care for each and every one of you. I won't quit on this topic of suicide prevention and my hope is that one day or one year, or from this moment on, there won't be any more suicides in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide programs for youth in the future; programs like, say for example, more music programs. Like say for example, we have great artists in Nunavut that can tour the community. Can there be a music tour or music festivals in every community and every year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Suicide Prevention, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the MLA for constantly raising the issue of mental health and suicide prevention.

All of us here, including ministers and members, need to inform people that they are loved. Unfortunately sometimes people feel alone and feel that they are not loved. However, this is not true and there is support for them out there. We just need to constantly inform and remind them.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the member's question around music, the Atii Angutiit program framework is being rolled out through the tour, and that does include a music component. It includes Inuk rap and beat box artist Nelson Tagoona as well as other artists.

We do recognize the value of music, especially with young people and trying to bring them into our programming, and will continue to support community-based initiatives through our funding pots to further work on suicide prevention at the community level. Thank you very much for the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns 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. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 028 – 6(2): Director's 2020-21 Annual Report on Family Wellness

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Director's 2020-21 Annual Report on Family Wellness.

Mr. Speaker, Inuktitut versions of the annual report will be tabled once the translations are completed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Tabled Document 029 – 6(2): 2018-19
Annual Report of the Legal
Services Board of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 030 – 6(2): 2020-21
Family Abuse Intervention Act
Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 031 – 6(2): 2019-
2020 Nunavut Victim Services
Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 032 – 6(2): 2020-21
Nunavut Victim Services Annual
Report**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table four reports:

- The 2018-19 Legal Services Board of Nunavut;
- The 2020-21 *Family Abuse Intervention Act* Annual Report; and
- The 2019-2020 and the 2020-21 Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 033 – 6(2): 2021-22
Cannabis Licensing Board Annual
Report**

**Tabled Document 034 – 6(2): 2022-23
Letters of Expectation**

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

- The 2021-22 Cannabis Licensing Board Annual Report; and
- The 2022-23 Letters of Expectation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 035 – 6(2): 2020-21
Public Service Annual Report**

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the 2020-21 Public Service Annual Report.

Mr. Speaker, Inuktitut versions of the annual report will be tabled once the translations are completed.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Tabled Document 036 – 6(2):
Correspondence from Mayor of
Chesterfield Inlet Regarding
Airport Terminal Building and
Granular Supplies**

**Tabled Document 037 – 6(2):
Correspondence from Chairperson
of Chesterfield Inlet Housing
Association Regarding Public
Housing Construction Allocation
Methodology**

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a letter from the Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet concerning the community's airport

terminal building and the need for adequate granular supplies.

I encourage all members to review this letter.

I would like to also table a letter which came from the Chairperson of the Chesterfield Inlet Housing Association concerning the issue of public housing construction allocation methodology.

I encourage all members to review this letter with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. I have three documents to table today.

**Tabled Document 038 – 6(2):
Directive on Members’ Travel and
Childcare Entitlements**

**Tabled Document 039 – 6(2): 2022-
2025 Business Plan of the Office of
the Languages Commissioner**

**Tabled Document 040 – 6(2):
Speaker’s List of Outstanding
Statutory Tabling Requirements**

The first document is the Management and Services Board’s Directive on Members’ Travel and Childcare Entitlements made under subsections 30(1) to (3) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

The second document is the 2022-25 Business Plan of the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

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

Notices of Motions. Item 14. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

**Motion 008 – 6(2): Legislative
Assembly Appointments – Notice**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges: Janet Brewster, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa; George Hickes, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk; the Hon. David Joanase, Member for South Baffin; Daniel Qavvik, Member for Hudson Bay; and Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his

motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Hickee.

**Motion 008 – 6(2): Legislative
Assembly Appointments**

Mr. Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that the following members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges: Janet Brewster, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa; George Hickee, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk; the Hon. David Joanasie, Member for South Baffin; Daniel Qavvik, Member for Hudson Bay; and Alexander Sammurtoq, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

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

First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Item 18.
Second Reading of Bills. Item 19.
Consideration in Committee of the

Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 with Mr. Savikataaq in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 5 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will now break for lunch and report back at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:47 and
Committee resumed at 13:29*

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

Chairman (Mr. Savikataaq): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 2, 3, 5, 6, and Bill 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 5, Bill 6, and Bill 7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2022-2023 – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman: I would like to ask Minister Kusugak: do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee?

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Officials, make your way.

For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Kyle Sealy, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services.

I appear before you today to present Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*.

Through this bill, we are seeking \$163,420,000 in supplementary capital appropriations for 2022-23.

This bill seeks to carryover \$151,920,000 in funding from the 2021-22 fiscal year into the 2022-23 fiscal year to continue working on 140

previously approved capital projects. This bill also seeks \$11.5 million in funding for one additional capital project.

Carrying some capital funding from one year to the next is routine and expected. Carryovers are required when Government of Nunavut departments do not fully spend the capital funds appropriated to them in a fiscal year, but still require the authority to spend the approved funding in future years.

Mr. Chairman, with the exception of two projects, which I will outline in a moment, we are not seeking additional funding relating to these carryovers. Instead, we are simply requesting approval to continue to use the existing funding in 2022-23.

Internally, we consider carryover requests in two groups.

The first group includes 110 projects where the Government of Nunavut has already made financial or contractual commitments to continue. This bill seeks approval of \$144.9 million to allow the Government of Nunavut to continue these ongoing projects in 2022-23 and meet our commitments.

The second group includes 30 projects the Assembly has approved, but the Government of Nunavut has not yet reached the stage where there are future financial or contractual commitments. Bill 2 seeks approval of \$7 million to enable the Government of Nunavut to move these projects beyond initial stages.

If the Assembly does not approve these appropriations, any previously approved

capital funding would lapse and the Government of Nunavut would either cancel the projects or defer working on them until appropriations are again available.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to note that of the total request, \$17.36 million relates to the North Baffin Energy Management project, which was approved in March 2021. This program requires a non-cash appropriation but must be included in this appropriation for accounting purposes. After adjusting for this amount, our core carryover amount is approximately \$134.6 million an amount that is high compared to previous years.

We are making every effort to ensure we limit the number of carryover projects. However, the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have been significant in terms of time and money. Over the past two years, COVID outbreaks and isolation requirements have hampered our ability to move projects forward on schedule. We are also seeing the costs of our projects increase significantly as bids continue to come in over budget despite attempts to factor COVID's impacts into project budgets.

As I mentioned, there are two projects included in our carryover list which require additional funding.

The Rankin Inlet Airport project is a joint project between Canada and Nunavut, where Canada contributes 75 percent of the project funding and the Government of Nunavut contributes the remaining 25 percent. We originally estimated that the total cost of this project would be \$60.66 million. Of this, Canada agreed to contribute \$45.5

million, leaving the Government of Nunavut to contribute the remaining \$15.2 million. However, when the project was tendered, the lowest bid was \$70.8 million. When we add current contracts, including design and a standard contingency amount, the new cost of the project is \$84.4 million. This represents a \$24 million budget shortfall.

We have requested additional support from Canada to cover 75 percent of the additional \$24 million. While we are hopeful that Canada will contribute additional funding, it is not certain and it will take time before we are. That is why we are incorporating the additional \$24 million into the project substantiation sheet as part of the capital carryover. If additional funding is subsequently received from Canada, then the government will reduce our appropriation by the amount that we receive from Canada. If the carryover and amended budget are not approved, then the project will be cancelled and the \$45.5 million that Canada has already contributed would be returned to Canada because it cannot be reprofiled to another project.

The second project requiring additional funding is the Sanikiluaq Hamlet Office. In September 2020, a hurricane force wind event destroyed the Sanikiluaq Hamlet Office roof, leaving the space exposed to rain, which further damaged the building. The lowest bid received as part of the procurement process was \$15.9 million, which is \$2.5 million higher than the approved budget.

In addition to capital carryovers, we are seeking \$11.5 million in this supplementary capital appropriation for the Government of Nunavut to purchase

land and warehouses for use by the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission. The commission will reimburse the Government of Nunavut for this purchase over time, ensuring that the full cost of this purchase will be paid for through the commission's sales and that it will not consume financial resources of the government. These warehouses will provide the commission with a modern and secure facility to operate out of, will help to control costs, and improve safety for our staff.

Mr. Chairman, I am available to address questions about the supplementary appropriation or our capital process generally.

If members have more detailed questions on specific carryover projects beyond the information already provided in the project substantiation sheets, I may direct them to the responsible minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Members, we are here to deal with *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.1, 2022-2023*. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Total Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Department. \$41,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Members go to page 6. Department of Finance. Subject Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$15,395,000. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the purchase of the warehouse space, what impact does that have on

current leases for warehouse space for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're already leasing the space for our warehousing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that. My question is: what impact would it have on the budget for leasing? Would it free up monies for additional leasing opportunities, whether it be office space, or any additional warehouse space that might be needed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have been able to release some of our smaller leases, and it would help our budget that way, Mr. Chairman, of not having to lease more space, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I am not being clear. What I am wondering is: what financial impact on the budget. How much were those leases have been relinquished? How much money does that free up for the department or for the commission? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank you my colleague for clearing that up. If I can through you, Mr. Chairman, have Mr. Chown give the details on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chown.

Mr. Chown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just looking at my notes here to see if I had the actual amounts of the current leases here. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the exact amount of the current leases here, but my recollection was that purchasing these units now, with consideration that we still have, I believe, four more years on these leases; the payments for those four years' worth of leases, I think, were going to equate to around 60 percent of the value of the purchase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Not Previously Authorized. Total Payment. \$15,395. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go onto page 7. Justice. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Directorate. \$74,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Corrections. \$1,912,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$1,989,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page... . Sorry, members, I must have misread or misspoke. Total Department. \$1,986,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 8. Culture and Heritage. Not Previously Authorized. Any questions? Total Department. \$450,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 10. Department of Education. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$32,268,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 11. Department of Health. Not Previously Authorized. Questions? Total Department. \$20,897,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 12. Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Questions? Total Department. \$2,976,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 15. Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Local Government Services. \$58,922,000. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I put up my hand a little late there. When we are looking at using the Rankin Inlet airport just as an example, and including the Sanikiluaq Hamlet office, there's been some questions here in the House recently on what kind of threshold Community Government Services uses to continue with the project, come back and ask for additional monies versus cancelling or postponing tenders.

I note with the Sanikiluaq office, it's not a substantial amount. When you look at it on a percentage basis, it's still around 20 percent, but with the Rankin Inlet airport, it's quite a substantial amount of money that is being requested to be appropriated.

It's more of a general question, Mr. Chairman. What type of analysis goes into deciding whether to come back and ask the House for additional monies, versus cancelling or rescheduling tenders? Is it just based on federal monies that are being accessed, or is there a different priority ranking that's used to decide which projects to move ahead with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na.* Just for the members' information, this amount we're voting on is for the treatment plants, but that's an overall question about overall projects with Community and Government Services, so I'll let it go through. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, often it's not so much the amount between the amount previously authorized and what the bids are coming in at. Often, it has a lot to do with the urgency of the project also. So

it's a combination of math and urgency and you know, you've taken the Sanikiluaq hamlet office as an example. You need something like that and for a hamlet office to be ripped apart by the wind, so to speak, and then the departments and the government have to come back and build something very urgently. Sometimes the prices come up higher, but we need to still go ahead and put the building together as soon as possible.

There is a blend between "how urgent is this?" and "is this for something that can wait?" Having said that, you also have to weigh in, and I appreciate the discussions that happen around this in terms of, you have to weigh in and say "ok, if we cancel this and re-tender next year, are we likely to get a higher bid or not?"

In a lot of these projects, we have the federal government that we go to and ask for more funding, where it's a 75-25 split. For example, with the Rankin airport, and in previous engagements with our federal counterparts, they have come back on a couple of occasions and said "okay, we will up our 75 percent share", and at that point, the ask becomes a lot less. There's a combination of those that come into play, Mr. Chairman.

Through you, if I could have Mr. Seeley maybe add some response to that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I think the minister covered the question quite well, but I

will add that. Strictly speaking, from our procurement perspective, we have an approved budget that we are able to work within. Anything beyond that budget requires one of a couple of options; either finding additional money, or reducing or changing the scope of the project to find a way to proceed within the existing financial resources approved here.

As far as the prioritization goes of the measures that we use, critical infrastructure, as in the must do's, they're certainly a higher priority for the projects that simply must proceed because of public safety and/or regulatory requirements, versus program-related improvements and/or projects that we might have some more discretion on.

The minister's points are absolutely correct. There is a fairly robust prioritization exercise, recognizing that we do need to plan all of these projects within the existing resource envelope. The needs are many. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Department of Community and Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Local Government Services. \$58,922,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Still on Community and Government Services. Total Petroleum Products. Not Previously Authorized. \$9,495,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Community and Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$68,417,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 16. Economic Development and Transportation. Not Previously Authorized. Questions? Okay. Economic Development and Transportation. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$19,182,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 17. Family Services. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$1,806,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 1, 2022-2023. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$163,418,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 2 in your legislative binder. I'll just give members a few minutes to get to it, Bill 2. Bill 2 in your binder.

Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 1, 2022-2023*. Clause by clause. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Appropriation. Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$163,418,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to Bill 2. 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 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 2 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, do you have any brief closing comments?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do. Thank you, everybody

for approving the appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like all members to stay there, and the minister, and we'll just change the Chairman.

Bill 03 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (Mr. Hicke): Thank you. I call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee.

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

Chairman: Thank you. It's the same witnesses that you just had, so I am going to forego the process of you having to introduce them. So if you can proceed with your opening comments on Bill 3. Minister Kusugak.

Hon Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to present Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*. This bill is identical to Bill 4, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, which was voted down in the Legislative Assembly in March 2022.

When Bill 4 was presented, my colleagues had concerns relating to the timing of the bill, which asked members to approve accounting adjustments which had already been made. The accounting adjustments shown here, that I am asking you to formally authorize occurred before the Sixth Assembly was elected, and have already been incorporated into the 2020-21 financial statements. This is a result of

the 2021 election timing, which pushed back bills the Assembly would normally have considered in October. Looking forward, I expect to introduce write-off bills in the fall session.

Although the timing is not ideal, these adjustments are appropriate and needed to be made so that the Government of Nunavut's records remained compliant with Canadian accounting standards. Making these adjustments allowed the government to present an accurate and transparent set of financial statements to the public.

I want to provide the context once again to explain the reasons for these accounting adjustments. Our departments, led by the Department of Finance, work to ensure our financial statements accurately reflect the value of our assets, which change over time.

Often the value of our assets goes down as we use them. Each year an asset grows older is one year less of its useful life and so its value goes down. We report annually, the slow and steady reductions to assets values and the normal wear and tear of a building as depreciation cost through our public accounts.

Of more interest to members are the larger or more sudden reductions; when the value of an asset drops quickly or unexpectedly. In these cases, our *Financial Administration Act* requires me to submit these to the Assembly as part of specific act of write-off.

Specifically, sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act* require an act of write-off whenever an asset decreases in value by \$20,000 or more.

These Acts are a usual part of our government financial operations. I expect to present one for each fiscal year.

As members, we are not involved with the actual adjustments themselves, nor do we need to be. The Government of Nunavut follows Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and our departments manages the asset level calculations behind the scenes.

Our accounting processes and decisions are subject to an annual audit. However, as members, we should know about and have an opportunity to discuss some of these sudden or unexpected accounting adjustments.

Through this bill, we are seeking authority to reduce the financial value of government assets by about \$843,000. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has reduced the value of its housing assets by about \$323,000. This total includes a write down of eight housing units damaged by fire, and mould of about \$300,000, and a write-off of a public housing unit destroyed by fire in Cambridge Bay of about \$20,000.

Nunavut Arctic College has written off about \$114,000 in debt owed by the now defunct Kivalliq Mine Training Society, and the Government of Nunavut has reduced the value of the fuel in its petroleum products inventory by just over \$400,000.

The bill before you shows the specific amounts of each adjustment. Although these adjustments are already recorded, it is still important that this Assembly has an opportunity to review, question and ultimately validate the write-offs.

Mr. Chairman and members, this completes my comments, and I would be pleased to take any questions about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. 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 brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*.

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

Members will recall that a similar bill was introduced during the 1st Session of the current Assembly, but did not receive assent. Although the standing committee has no objections to the specific write-offs that are contained in the bill, it emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the relevant provisions of the *Financial Administration Act* are complied with concerning the approval of such bills by the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee anticipates entering into an exchange of correspondence with the minister and the Auditor General following the conclusion of the spring sitting with a goal of strengthening this process. This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are there any questions or comments? Mr. Kaernerk.

Mr. Kaernerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister and your officials. In your opening comments on page 2, Mr. Chairman... . No, actually on page 3, on the last page, the first paragraph, the minister mentioned that they are going to write off \$300,000 for fire and mould damages. How much damage is the Nunavut Housing Corporation looking into with regard to mould? It says here, I am assuming, it is \$106,000, but I might be wrong. I need the clarification. That is all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just give me a moment here if you can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the 2020-21 mould remediation efforts, mould remediation efforts were done in 29 public housing units across Nunavut. From these efforts, five dwellings were deemed to require repairs and a write-down. Four units are in multiplex buildings and one unit was a single family dwelling. All of these units have mould damage significant enough to require a write-down exceeding \$20,000, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, please go to Bill 3 in the legislative binder. Thank you. We will proceed clause by clause. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sorry. My apologies. Please go to Part 1 of the Schedule on page 2. Nunavut Arctic College. Kivalliq Mine Training Society Debts. \$113,982.03. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Please go to Part 2 of Schedule on page 2. Assets Written Off. Community and Government Services. Petroleum Products Division. Annual Fuel Shrinkage. \$406,203.42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3. Please go to part of the Schedule on page 2. Assets Written Off. Nunavut Housing Corporation. One physical asset. \$20,402. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Please go to part 4 of the Schedule on page 2. Just to confirm. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to part 4 of schedule on page 2. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Assets Written Down. Eight Physical Assets. \$302,392. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 3 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and colleagues. I look forward to keeping you updated in the upcoming fall session if there are any more write-offs as we moving along.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I appreciate your time. Thank you. (interpretation) That's it.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Just for procedural purposes, I neglected to approve clause 3. I will ask again: do members agree with clause 3? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now we are finished with Bill 3.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, you can help the witness out.

Bill 05 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Consideration in Committee

Thank you. I call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Simailak: do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do committee members agree for the witnesses to attend with the minister?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Simailak please introduce your witnesses and proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Deputy Minister of Justice, Stephen Mansell.

Good day, I am here to discuss Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, observed on September 30 is not currently a holiday in Nunavut.

The Department of Justice is presenting Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* which will create a holiday for public servants and the general public in territorially-regulated industries. This change requires amendments to the *Labour Standard Act*, the *Legislation Act*, and the *Public Service Act*.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is meant to address one of the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that the federal government collaborated with Indigenous peoples. The aim of this call to action is “to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their

families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.”

The federal government established the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a holiday for federal employees in 2021. The day recognizes the forcible separation of indigenous children from their families and communities to attend residential schools, where many experienced abuse and loss of their cultures, languages, and traditions.

By designating September 30 as a general holiday, we will allow Nunavummiut to commemorate survivors and the loss of too many to the injustices of residential schools, and commit to building a positive, better future for all. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

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 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*.

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

The standing committee recognizes the importance of honouring our residential school survivors, the children who never

came home, and their communities that feel the lasting impacts of these institutions. This national day allows us to reflect on what healing and reconciliation looks like to all of us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do any members have any questions or comments? I see none. Please go to your legislative binder. Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*. Sorry, you have a question? Mr. Savikataaq, please go ahead.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the viewing audience and the members here, can the minister explain how September 30 was picked as the day? Thank you. That's it.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was a recommendation from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? I see none. Please go to Bill 5 in your legislative binder. *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 5 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 5 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak, brief closing comments.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the committee. I'm sure this day will help with the healing and remembering of the past injustices, and help move our people forward with recognizing this day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you. We will proceed directly to Bill 6. Minister, do you have any opening comments?

**Bill 06 – An Act to Amend the
Judicature Act – Consideration in
Committee**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. Thank you. I am here today to discuss Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

The Department of Justice proposes to amend to the *Judicature Act* to provide for the enforcement of certain orders made under the *Canadian Free Trade*

Agreement. This amendment is minor, but necessary to bring the Government of Nunavut into compliance with the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*. Compliance will allow the Nunavut Court of Justice to enforce decisions made under free trade agreement disputes, and allow our government to participate in other provincial and territorial disputes that may affect Nunavut's interests.

Upon signing the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* in 2017, the Government of Nunavut committed to implementing dispute resolution in territorial legislation. This amendment would satisfy that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 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 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*.

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

The standing committee recognizes the importance of the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* and its dispute resolution mechanisms. The standing committee notes that there are currently no panellists representing Nunavut on the Canadian Free Trade Agreement's Roster of Panellists and Roster of Appellate Panellists. The standing

committee encourages the department to identify suitable Nunavummiut to nominate to fill the vacant positions.

The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of the important work being done under the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do any members have any questions or comments on this bill? I know we had a bit of dialogue in the standing committee. Seeing none, please go to Bill 6 in your legislative binder, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 6 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 6 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak, do you have any brief closing comments?

Hon. Craig Simailak: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the committee as well for putting this through. It puts the Government of Nunavut in compliance with the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* that we signed upon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Thank you.

Bill 07 – Interim Language of Instruction Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Minister Gross, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. Pamela Gross: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you. For the record, Minister Gross, can you please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments?

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Chairman. To my left, I have the Deputy Minister of Education, Rebecca Hainnu, and to my right, I have Director of Litigation Division, Department of Justice, Thomas Ahlfors. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Ullukkut, good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to appear before you and the Committee of the Whole today to discuss Bill 7, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*.

Mr. Chairman, when Bill 25 was passed, and the 2020 *Education Act* came into force, it brought with it a number of ambitious timelines. The most notable timelines in the Act are related to the development and implementation of Inuit language arts curriculum. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform the

Committee of the Whole that the Department of Education is on track with meeting these important timelines.

One timeline that the department has not been able to meet, however, is in section 24 of the Act that requires district education authorities to select a language of instruction model for their schools by July 1, 2022.

The restraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as limited internal capacity, has meant that the department has not been able to properly review the language of instruction regulations and the existing language of instruction models, so the regulatory framework is not in place to allow district education authorities to select a language model.

Bill 7 would allow more time for the department to complete its review of the language of instruction regulations, including a thorough review of language of instruction models.

Mr. Chairman, bilingual education and instruction in Inuktitut is a crucial aspect of our education system. Language of instruction in Nunavut has the ability to impact the preservation and promotion of linguistic and cultural vitality, and by extension, Inuit culture.

For this reason, making decisions related to language of instruction requires significant community engagement. By extending the deadline for the selection of language of instruction models, Bill 7 will allow the department sufficient time to fully engage with communities and education partners to determine what they want language of instruction to look like for their children and youth.

Bill 7 will also allow the department sufficient time to determine other important aspects of the language of instruction regulations, including how district education authorities will select and review their language models.

Mr. Chairman, I want to assure you and the Committee the Whole, that Bill 7 will not delay the development of made-in-Nunavut curriculum, nor will it change anything for current students. If Bill 7 passes, all the consultation and reviews of the language models will take place while schools continue to implement the existing models to the best of their abilities.

I further want to assure you that the Department of Education will make every effort to complete the required language of instruction reviews before the three year deadline extension proposed in Bill 7.

Mr. Chairman, we strongly believe that the spirit and intent of the 2020 *Education Act* is to ensure that the methods by which bilingual education is implemented reflect the needs and wants of students, parents and our communities. Bill 7 will allow us to make sure that is the case.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to respond to any questions the committee may have regarding Bill 7. *Quana, qujannamiik*, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to

make some opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 7, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee appreciates that a number of factors have impacted the Department of Education's progress in achieving its language of instruction mandate since the passage of Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Consequently, the standing committee recognizes the legal necessity of this bill, which the minister described in her opening comments.

However, it has been noted that over the past decade a considerable amount of work and consultations have already taken place with respect to language of instructions needs and aspirations across the territory and members are not pleased with the government's ongoing delays in implementing Inuit language education across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 7 proposes to require the minister to table an annual progress report on the development of the required language of instruction regulations, as well as the development and implementation of curricula in the Inuit languages. Members will be closely monitoring these developments and strongly encourage the minister and her staff to complete the required work before the newly proposed deadline of January 31, 2025. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Any questions or comments? Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the proposed

legislation because it is important that the government not be in violation of its own legislation. However, I am not happy with the proposed timeline for developing and implementing the Inuit language of instruction mandate.

Mr. Chairman, during my campaign for the position of MLA, I promised to promote the use of Inuktitut. My intent was and still is to ensure that more Inuktitut is spoken across this territory by the end of our term as the sixth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed deadline to January 2025 to implement this one section of the *Education Act* to mandate education in the Inuit language comes in the very last year of our term as MLAs. Mr. Chairman, I wish to go on the record to say that I am disappointed with this approach.

Mr. Chairman, I very strongly encourage the minister, her staff, and the Department of Education as a whole to make every effort to complete the development of the new language of instruction regulations as soon as possible, and well before 2025. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. It's just a comment. Any other questions or comments from members? Seeing none, I have one. I would like to echo Mr. Quqqiaq's words, and the chair of the standing committee as well on how important that it is that we don't start from scratch again on the consultation process.

It has been over a year since Bill 25 was passed, and just now there still hasn't been a consultation plan put forward by

the department. It puts the Assembly as whole into a very awkward position, where we have very little choice but to pass this legislation, against our wishes.

I was part of the special committee reviewing the *Education Act* two terms ago and we went to different communities and got feedback, and language of instruction was a very strong component of that special committee's work.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to not reinvent the wheel. There has been a lot of work done already, so I would hope that the department is taking advantage of those previous consultations to get a head start on the work going forward now, and make up some of the time that has been lost over the last year plus of time, in which a lot of this work could have and should have been done.

I just want to echo my colleague's concerns and just really push the minister to push the department to get these considerations and these consultations and this language plan to be finalized sooner rather than later. I do understand that you had to put a deadline in there and three years should be at the very outside of that timeline. I just wanted to put that on the record that I too am not overly thrilled with having to put this legislation through, but I do acknowledge that we don't want the Department of Education to be in violation of its own legislation, and so I will leave it at that.

Are there any questions or comments? Seeing none, please go to Bill 7 in your legislative binder. *Interim Language of Instruction Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. 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: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 7 as a Whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 7 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, do you have brief closing comments?

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana* Mr. Chairman. *Quana* to the committee. I just want to say that we recognize an extension to the timeline so soon after the amended *Education Act* was passed is not ideal, and we acknowledge and thank the committee for their consideration of such an extension and we will work as hard as we can to meet

the deadline before or to work to meet before the deadline, and I look forward to coming forward with more information as it proceeds. *Quana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort the witnesses out and I'll rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: 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 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 and would like to report that Bills 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 are concluded and are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

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

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

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 02 – Supplementary
Appropriation (Capital) Act, No.
1, 2022-2023 – Third Reading**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*, 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 and Bill 2 is ready for assent.

Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Bill 03 – Write-off of Assets and Debts
Act, 2020-2021 – Third Reading**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, 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 and Bill 3 is ready for assent.

I recognize the Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 05 – An Act to Amend Certain
Acts Respecting the National Day
for Truth and Reconciliation –
Third Reading**

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon.

Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*, 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 and Bill 5 is ready for assent.

Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 06 – An Act to Amend the
Judicature Act – Third Reading**

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 6, *An Act to Amend Judicature 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 and Bill 6 is ready for assent.

Hon. Minister of Education, Minister Gross.

**Bill 07 – Interim Language of
Instruction Act – Third Reading**

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Aggu, that Bill 7, *Interim Language of Instruction 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 and Bill 7 is ready for assent.

Before we go to the next item, we will take a short break as we wait for the Commissioner of Nunavut.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 14:33 and resumed at 14:50

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Eva Qamaniq Aariak (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. Sometimes you have to rush around a little, which I just did.

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

- Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance Act, 2022-2023)*;
- Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*;
- Bill 3, *Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*;
- Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*;
- Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*; and
- Bill 7, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*.

Those are the bills.

Now that you are done, we hope that you have a very good summer and during your break, make sure that you see your constituents. Have a very good summer. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one announcement, there will be a quick meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules in the Nanuq Boardroom following the end of today's sitting.

Orders of the Day for October 27:

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: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn, I wish to make two announcements.

Speaker's Statement

As members are aware, the *Nunavut Elections Act* provides for the establishment of an Electoral Boundaries Commission to propose to the Legislative Assembly the boundaries and names of the constituencies in Nunavut.

The last commission was established in the year 2010, during the Third Legislative Assembly. Its recommendations were subsequently considered and adopted by the House, and came into effect for the Fourth Legislative Assembly.

The next Electoral Boundaries Commission will be established in the fall of this year.

The members of the Electoral Boundaries Commission will be appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly.

The commission will consist of three members and be presided over by a judge or retired judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice or the Court of Appeal. The other two members must be eligible Nunavut voters.

The Legislative Assembly is now inviting applications to serve on the commission. I encourage qualified Nunavummiut to consider this opportunity to contribute to the governance of our territory.

Information concerning the application process is available on the Legislative Assembly's website and from the offices of members.

I am also very pleased to take this opportunity to announce this year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut.

As members are aware, the *Order of Nunavut Act* came into force on January 1, 2010.

The objective of the order is to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the territory. The order is the highest honour of Nunavut and takes precedence over all other orders, decorations, or medals conferred by the Government of Nunavut.

The inclusion of the Order of Nunavut into the national Canadian Honours System was formalized in the year 2018 by way of a federal Order in Council that was approved by the Governor General.

The Order of Nunavut Advisory Council recommends individuals for investiture into the order.

The members of the advisory council are the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice, and the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

I thank my colleagues on the council for their work in considering this year's nominations.

Between the years 2011 and 2021, a total of 19 individuals received the Order of Nunavut for their contributions in such fields as public and community service, the arts, education, language promotion, spiritual leadership, and business development.

This year's recipients are two extremely well-respected individuals who have a lifetime of accomplishment.

Please join me in congratulating Maryanne Inuaraq Tattuinee and Dorothy Atuat Tootoo of Rankin Inlet as this year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut.

>>Applause

Maryanne Inuaraq Tattuinee is a respected elder who has provided counselling and guidance to generations of young people.

Ms. Tattuinee is renowned for the aid and comfort that she provided to Inuit receiving treatment for tuberculosis at the Clearwater Lake Sanatorium during the 1950s.

Ms. Tattuinee participated in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Dorothy Atuat Tootoo's career has included significant roles with Nunavut Arctic College and the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

Ms. Tootoo is a long-time community volunteer who has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Governor General's Polar Medal.

This year's recipients of the Order of Nunavut are inspiring women whose contributions and service have made a profound difference in the lives of countless Nunavummiut.

The investiture ceremonies for this year's recipients will be held later this year during the fall sitting of the House, and I look forward to all members joining us on this important occasion.

Before ending the day, I would like to thank you all for spending so much time trying to look after all Nunavummiut. That is your job and they do need your help and very, very much thank you so much for that.

>>Applause

I hope you have a good trip home. Enjoy the spring, enjoy the summer, and look after yourselves. I'm sure your constituents will put you to work anyway sometime during the summer, but they do so look up to you.

I would like to thank so much our interpreters.

>>Applause

They do speak different languages and make people understand in Nunavut.

There's Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and we don't have anyone saying *merci beaucoup* here yet.

>>*Laughter*

I don't believe I said that right, but thank you and I would like to thank our pages for all their help...

>>*Applause*

...during the sitting.

I would like to thank also our staff sitting in front of me...

>>*Applause*

...who make everything seem so easy, but they seem to be so tireless. Thank you so much.

>>*Applause*

I thank all members for their attention, and this House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2022.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:04*

