

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak

(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeagok

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

Hon. Joellie Kaernerak

(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee

(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak

(Tununiq)

Hon. Daniel Qavvik

(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. P.J. Akeagok

(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South)

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

Joanna Quassa

(Aggu)

Bobby Anavilok

(Kugluktuk)

Adam Lightstone

(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq

(Netsilik)

Janet Brewster

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Alexander Sammurtok

(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Hon. Pamela Gross

(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Education; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for Seniors

Solomon Malliki

(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

George Hickes

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(Pangnirtung)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Craig Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Joanasic

(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, February 23, 2024**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 356 – 6(2): Nunavut Chairs the Northern Premiers' Forum

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good morning" to my fellow MLAs and all Nunavummiut who are listening to the proceedings this Friday morning.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am excited to share that Nunavut is the chair of the Northern Premiers' Forum for 2024. The forum was established back in 2003. The chair is assumed on a rotational basis between Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

I would like to thank the former Premier and my friend of the Northwest Territories Caroline Cochrane for her role as the chairperson in 2023. I welcome the new premier, R.J. Simpson, to the table.

The forum is an excellent opportunity to work together to ensure that our unique and shared northern needs can be brought forward effectively. A united voice is a powerful tool to express the realities of Canada's northern jurisdictions.

I hosted a videoconference on January 15 in advance of an annual in-person gathering that is planned for Mittimatalik/Pond Inlet in May. Mr. Speaker, many of Nunavut's priorities, such as arctic security and sovereignty, infrastructure, and housing, are shared areas of interest for Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Officials from all three

territories will continue to work together over the coming months to develop a strong agenda that reflects the needs of northerners.

I also look forward to working with my colleague, MLA Nutarak, as well as the Hamlet of Pond Inlet to share the beauty and community spirit of the hamlet with our colleagues and friends from Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 357 – 6(2): Generator Set Replacement Major Project Permit Application

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC), I would like to speak on a matter related to the crucial need for reliable energy in Nunavut communities. Ensuring timely replacement of generator sets (gen. sets) is vital to meet the increasing energy demands of Nunavummiut and providing dependable power across the territory.

The QEC acknowledges the necessity of adopting a long-term strategy to prioritize capital expenditures, while guaranteeing safe and reliable electricity for all residents. The QEC has submitted a major project permit application to my office, requesting approval to replace generator sets in the communities of Kugaaruk, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, and Pond Inlet.

As minister, I have sought the advice of the Utility Rates Review Council (URRC) and the review of this application is underway. *Uqaqtitsijii*, the proposed generator replacement projects, typically spanning two years, would address capacity issues in the five communities, replacing units that are at or beyond their useful life, and resolve reliability issues related to the unavailability of replacement parts. The total estimated cost for these proposed projects amounts to \$32.4 million, which is projected to result in a revenue requirement increase of approximately 1.47 cents per kilowatt-hour once the projects are fully operational. Notably, there would be no immediate impact on rates until the QEC's first general rate application following the projects' coming in-service.

Uqaqtitsijii, by upgrading these generator sets, the QEC remains committed to delivering a safe, reliable and cost-effective power supply to support the continued growth of Nunavut communities. Detailed information on the application and proposed replacement projects is available on the QEC website. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 358 – 6(2): Family Services Strategic Framework

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow MLAs and I say “good morning” to Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to advise my colleagues today that at the appropriate time, I will table the Family Wellness Strategic Framework. This framework was developed as part of the response to the Office of the Auditor General's *Report on Child and Family Services in Nunavut* that was tabled in this House on May 30, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this strategic framework outlines steps to align our operations with the goals of the *Child and Family Services Act*, while providing excellent support to children, youth, and families. It aims to address the current challenges and issues within our department from a social work perspective.

The framework also includes the development and launch of a comprehensive communications strategy to guide meaningful engagement and consultation with our stakeholders. The Department of Family Services will now move into the next phase of engagement with the strategic framework. This will involve extensive consultation with other government departments and external entities, including Inuit organizations and the Representative for Children and Youth office. During these engagements, stakeholders will have the chance to review the framework and provide feedback. It is crucial that we work together with our partners, both internally and externally.

Mr. Speaker, the department also continues to work closely with the Office of the Auditor General during this process. Their officials have reviewed the strategic framework, and we will be developing guidelines for a continued working relationship as we will address the delivery of services for the well-being of children, youth, and families.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 359 – 6(2): Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide a statement on the successful Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting that took place this past November. This

important event brought together all Nunavut municipalities and provided a platform for meaningful discussions and collaboration.

I had the privilege of attending this meeting alongside the Premier and some of my ministerial colleagues as we took the opportunity to address our fellow elected officials at the local level. It was a valuable occasion to engage with municipal leaders and strengthen the bonds between our territorial government and the municipalities we serve.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, one of the highlights of the meeting was the open forum, which provided a platform for community and government services staff and territorial partners to directly address chief and senior administrative officers as well as mayors. This interactive session fostered constructive dialogue and enabled the exchange of ideas, opportunity to provide program information, and most importantly, develop contacts and working relationships.

Following this meeting, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities shared priorities for municipalities through resolutions directed toward territorial departments. These resolutions will guide our efforts as we work together to enhance the well-being and prosperity of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting is a testament to the commitment and dedication of local and territorial partners. By coming together, we have reaffirmed our shared vision for a prosperous Nunavut and a strong partnership between the government and municipalities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to the organizers, municipal leaders, and all those who contributed to the success of this meeting. Their hard work and collaboration have laid the foundation for continued progress and collaboration.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 360 – 6(2): Update on Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Study

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say “good morning” to the people of Quttiktuq and my fellow MLAs.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the Kivalliq road study. I am happy to report that we just completed the in-person community consultations for this project.

Last month, my department travelled to the Kivalliq to conduct consultations regarding the potential of an all-season road connecting five communities. We travelled to Rankin

Inlet, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, and Arviat. We met with members of the communities, hamlet councils, hunters and trappers organizations, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and multiple local businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the initial reaction we gathered from the communities is generally positive. Kivallirmiut are excited about the possibility of being connected to each other and reducing the costs of essential goods and services in the communities. The overarching concerns include the migration of *tuktu* and the socio-economic impacts the road might bring.

For residents who missed the meetings, we are still collecting feedback virtually. I encourage them to fill out the Kivalliq road study online survey available on the Government of Nunavut website. This is an important opportunity for your voices to get heard and be included in the report, which should be available later in the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Minister's Statement 361 – 6(2): Nunavut Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee Membership

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Climate Change Youth Advisory Committee is expanding and looking for new members. I encourage all Nunavummiut youth between the ages of 16 and 35, especially those from the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions, to consider applying and being a part of this forum to have their voices heard on climate change issues and initiatives impacting Nunavut. We seek to maintain a youth advisory committee that represents all the regions of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, youth members will have an opportunity to:

- Provide their perspective and input on Government of Nunavut climate change programs, policies, and activities.
- Advise the Government of Nunavut on emerging climate change issues of concern to Nunavut's youth.
- Raise awareness among Nunavummiut on climate change issues affecting their communities.
- Represent Nunavut's youth at climate change gatherings.

- Have the opportunity to become engaged climate change leaders in Nunavut.

To apply, I am encouraging our youth to check out the website www.climatechangenunavut.ca, visit a local government liaison office or a high school to obtain an application for submission to the Nunavut Climate Change Youth Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 362 – 6(2): Welcoming Northwest Territories Minister Vince McKay

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hon. Vince McKay on his recent appointment as the Northwest Territories' Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. Minister McKay and I share responsibility for this portfolio in our respective territories.

Minister McKay is serving his first term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Hay River South but brings with him a distinguished background with the Hay River Town Council, work in the corrections environment and the local fire department, and a business in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working closely with Minister McKay to advance workplace safety in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Before going on to the next item, I would like to advise the House that Member Kaernerck, Member Quassa, and Member Killiktee will not be in this morning.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 484 – 6(2): Congratulations to Recipients of the Nunavut Commissioner's Awards and a Successful Mace Tour

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a number of my constituents in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk who received the Nunavut Commissioner's Awards.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise to express my appreciation to you for leading the Speaker's Mace Tour in both of my constituencies. As you will recall, earlier this month, the people of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk had the opportunity to see and learn more about the Mace, the Legislative Assembly, and about the Commissioner of Nunavut and her office.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the Nunavut Commissioner's Awards included community member volunteers, the search and rescue team, volunteer firefighters, and elders who are recognized knowledge keepers, as well as individuals who demonstrated bravery and survival instincts during times of need.

Mr. Speaker, the following individuals received Knowledge Keeper Awards in Taloyoak:

- Alice Quayaut
- Annie Kanayuq Paniloo
- Mary Ittunga
- James Eetoolook

Three individuals received Bravery Awards in Taloyoak:

- Mark Lyall
- Johnny Pameok Uquqtunnuaq
- Tommy Totalik

Mr. Speaker, the following individuals received Knowledge Keeper Awards in Kugaaruk:

- Marie Anguti
- Sidonie Nirlungayuk

Mr. Speaker, Lutgarde Angutingunirk of Kugaaruk received the Bravery Award.

Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Aariak gave plaques of recognition to the volunteer firefighters, the search and rescue team, and the Canadian Ranger Patrol in both communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Commissioner Eva Aariak for travelling to Taloyoak and Kugaaruk to recognize our dedicated community members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the administration at both of our schools for their hospitality and helping make the Mace Tour visit and the Commissioner's Awards events possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the recipients of the Commissioner's Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 485 – 6(2): Mace Tour in Naujaat and Coral Harbour

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my fellow MLAs and my constituents and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to both you and the Commissioner of Nunavut for your recent visit to both Naujaat and Coral Harbour for the Mace Tour.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, earlier this month the Mace Tour was able to visit the communities of Naujaat and Coral Harbour for the very first time.

Mr. Speaker, the visit provided students at our schools and community members the opportunity to learn more about role of the Mace and its creation, the role of the Speaker, and learn more about the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to inform the House that the Speaker and Commissioner Eva Aariak had the opportunity to visit my father, Paul Malliki, who is one of six artists who helped create the Mace. My father was very happy to reunite with the Mace and shared historic memories with us about its creation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community's senior administrative officer and the administration at both of our schools for their organized hospitality and helping make the Mace Tour visits possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 486 – 6(2): Sailijaarvik Boarding Home Concerns

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to bring forward a number of concerns that have been raised by my constituents with respect to the services provided at the Sailijaarvik Boarding Home in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, a recent series of posts on Facebook drew public attention to complaints about the quality of food and concerns about pests in the facility. I did appreciate receiving correspondence from a representative of the Nova Group of Companies regarding these issues and how they were addressed by the company.

However, I wish to note that my constituents share their complaints and concerns out of care and concern for their fellow Inuit. As their representative in the Legislative Assembly, I am committed to doing my best to ensure they receive the quality of services that they are entitled to.

Uqaqtittijii, I hosted a radio show in my community to hear directly from residents on their experiences or concerns with the government. I heard a number of concerns about the food lacking variety and quality, with some patients even going hungry when they are at the facility. I heard that there is only heavily chlorinated tap water and no fresh or bottled water, from an elder.

My constituents told me that the drivers are unwilling to help clients or even disabled clients, including elders, and seem unaware of the flight schedules.

Mr. Speaker, there is often no transportation at the airport when patients arrive and then when it comes time to leave, they are told to check out sometimes at 6 a.m., which seems unreasonably early.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been raised about the level and types of training that staff have received, whether it is... .

Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my statement. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) ...whether it is in cross-cultural awareness or basic first aid, both of which should be mandatory in a medical boarding home with Inuit clients. In fact, when I went to meet with clients last fall at the boarding home, I was treated quite rudely myself and refused entrance, so I spoke with my constituents outside in the cold.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the government, especially the Minister of Health, and I am willing to work with the minister with these issues and address them. If the minister would like more information, I am willing to meet with the minister to provide more specific details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 487 – 6(2): Medical Interpreters for Kugluktuk

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Kugluktuk, Nunavummiut, and my fellow MLAs.

There were some concerns about the patients going to the health centre in Kugluktuk, how they were treated, and for people getting medication. People from Kugluktuk need medical interpreters and sometimes they have a shortage of interpreters.

I want to say that I have heard from my constituents and I will be asking questions later on during the sitting regarding the concerns that they have, and I will be raising this issue in the next little while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 677 – 6(2): Independent Power Producer Program

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the Return to Oral Question No. 677, which was asked during the fall 2023 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Manasie Naullaq and his wife Danielle Huggins-Naullaq. Welcome to your House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 700 – 6(2): Utility Regulation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Friday to you and all of my fellow colleagues and those joining us online and across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council.

I would like to begin by congratulating the new chairperson of the Utility Rates Review Council, also known as URRC, for his recent appointment. Mr. Speaker, he is no stranger to this House as he was actually responsible for introducing the legislation originally establishing the council.

I would also like to thank my colleague from Aivilik for his questions yesterday when he asked the Minister of Community and Government Services to explain why the fuel price was increased on two occasions over less than 100 days.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 677 – 6(2).

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the URRC functions as a regulatory capacity with respect to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which is the territory's publicly-owned monopoly provider of electricity to all 25 Nunavut communities.

Earlier this year, the council issued a notice inviting submissions concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's multi-million dollar plan to replace generators in a number of Nunavut communities, and the deadline for submissions closed earlier this month.

I would like to ask: can the minister provide an update today on the status of the Utility Rates Review Council on this application? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Good morning. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking that question. I, too, would like to congratulate Mr. Okalik as being the new chair. It's great to have a representative right here from Nunavut serving in these very important roles. I would to thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, the URRC is a quasi-judicial council and, while the application is under review at this moment, it does not comment publicly, but I could confirm that we are hoping that a report is due on or before May 2, 2024 for the gen. sets that he is questioning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. I'll move on to my next line of questioning.

Mr. Speaker, when the Qulliq Energy Corporation proposes general rate changes or major capital projects that would impact its revenue requirements, the Utility Rates Review Council considers the applications and makes non-binding recommendations to the responsible minister.

Earlier this year, the government announced a territory-wide increase in the price of diesel fuel, gasoline, jet fuel, and naphtha. This was the second price increase in just three months.

I would like to ask: can the minister clearly explain why the Utility Rates Review Council does not currently have a role in respect to approving changes in the price of fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank my colleague for that question. As the member is fully aware, the current structure is directed through the Petroleum Products Division that sets the price at an at-cost basis, but I am aware that I, as the Minister responsible for the URRC, could instruct for them to look into potential issues that are of significance, such as the fuel prices. I understand that has been something that has been brought up in the past year, but right now to the member's question, it strictly falls with the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services on setting the price to work with the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. I for one have concern over the current fuel price rate structure. Mr. Speaker, as the minister had indicated, it is the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services to put forward the recommendations and cabinet is responsible for approving it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that when fuel price setting or price setting in general is left as a political decision, there's room for negative impacts. Mr. Speaker, as far as I'm aware, I believe we are the only jurisdiction in Canada where utilities' price structure is set or decided upon at the political level. Mr. Speaker, I believe the time has come to rethink the government's approach to regulating the price of fuel.

When it comes to electricity, Nunavummiut have only one choice of provider: our publicly owned power utility. When it comes to fuel to heat our homes or gasoline to power vehicles, Nunavummiut are wholly dependent on decisions taken in respect to the government's Petroleum Products Division, which can reasonably be considered another monopoly utility.

I would like to ask: will the minister commit to formally requesting the Utility Rates Review Council to undertake a comprehensive study on the issue of regulating fuel prices in the territory and to provide a report and recommendations to the government and this House for potential legislative changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Council, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. Again, I could commit to working with my officials to see if this is something that we could explore. I am aware that, as is the House, we are looking at reorganizing the departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Community and Government Services as part of that review that has been ongoing.

Further to that, I am willing to look at this issue with my senior officials to see if this is something that's warranted through the question that has come forward. I am willing to work with the member to hear if there are any suggestions around that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 701 – 6(2): Tax Transparency

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my fellow MLAs and good day to the people of Baker Lake.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I strongly support a successful and sustainable mining sector in Nunavut. Over the past two decades, I have seen with my own eyes the truly transformative change that has occurred in Baker Lake as a direct result of the mines.

Mr. Speaker, as Canadians and Nunavummiut, we benefit from some of the most generous health and social programs in the world. However, it is a simple economic fact that governments require tax revenue to fund these generous programs, and these revenues need to be generated by private economic activities like mining.

Mr. Speaker, information that is publicly released under the federal *Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act* indicates that the Government of Nunavut generated over \$7 million in taxes from Agnico Eagle Mines in the year 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I understand it's still early in the new year, but I'm wondering if the minister can provide an estimate today as to how much tax revenue was generated in the year 2023 from mining activity in the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is early in the new year, but it is right at the end of the old fiscal year, so that information would not be available at this time as we still haven't reached the end of March. In saying that, I don't anticipate it being much different than the previous years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. As the minister will recall, I recently tabled our exchange of correspondence concerning territorial tax revenues that are generated from mining activity in Nunavut.

As the minister will also recall, he had refused my earlier request for additional details concerning these revenues.

I subsequently wrote to the Information and Privacy Commissioner on this issue, and I thank him for his detailed observations on this issue which are now on the public record.

In light of the commissioner's observations, will the minister commit to revisiting my request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, at this point, I have made my response to his request or to the member's request, but it could be revisited at some point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again, minister, for keeping the door open.

I'm wondering: will the minister commit to bringing forward appropriate amendments to the territorial legislation in this area before the current Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't make any commitments at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 702 – 6(2): Addressing Bullying

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I am very concerned about the ongoing issue of bullying in our schools. It is like an illness that prevents our students from learning, from enjoying their youth, and from thriving. The department has introduced a system to record incidents of bullying and violence in our schools.

Can the minister provide an update on how this system is being used to track and monitor the rate of violent incidents in specific schools or regions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. Yes, we do have the violence reporting system that we have been using in our schools and this has been our first year of implementing that reporting system.

We're working to come out with information that we can share with our colleagues on this system. We do have some regions that are utilizing the system more than others, so we want them to all be importing their information so that we have accurate data that goes into the system so that we can utilize it very efficiently.

In the coming time, we will be able to share with our colleagues some of the information that we have been able to gather in terms of numbers and how many reports we are getting and so forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The impact of one student bullying other students can scar children for life. Feeling unsupported or put down by your peer group can be devastating. It can change a nice young person into someone that you almost don't recognize anymore.

Can the minister clarify whether any new initiatives are currently underway to tackle the problem of bullying in our schools and tell us how these programs are being evaluated for their effectiveness? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for the question. We do know that incidents are happening in our schools and across the territory, but that is also happening across Canada as well, Mr. Speaker.

There are ongoing actions and avenues that the Department of Education is taking for anti-bullying programs in our schools. We have parental engagement, which is happening if there are incidents but also incidents to encourage families to come into the schools, whether there are incidents happening or not, because having a community space and a family space where people feel comfortable to come into the schools is what we would like to see. We have a school-wide behaviour support system which is grounded in Inuit societal values and we have the breakfast and lunch programs that provide nutrition.

We have further actions that are going to be determined by the department for our school leaders, but we have anti-bullying training that happens and also, as I mentioned, our violence reporting tracking system which we also have there to report those incidents if they do happen. We can get those reports from our teachers, our school staff, students, bus drivers, or any visitors that come into the school to create a positive space for our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was not answered at all. I asked about new initiatives, but I didn't get an answer to that. Children who are bullied will be affected for the rest of their lives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that we also hear of cases across Nunavut where educators themselves have bullied and mistreated the youth in our schools. I believe the department's violent incident database also includes these events.

Can the minister describe what kinds of intervention and awareness training is provided to ensure that school staff and educators are aware of how their behaviours affect the youth in their care and how they can improve their interpersonal relations in the classroom? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Goss: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, we have also put in a lot of financial support passed through this government to put in extra supports for mental health resources in our schools. We have a number of mental health people that are working directly in our schools and are there on a daily basis through either in person or virtually that are there to support any students that need extra assistance.

We also have collaborated under the Nunavut Teachers Association Safe Schools Anti-Violence Committee. We're working to establish that tracking system which has been in place. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. We do want to ensure that we have less violence in our schools and are working hard to ensure that there are a number of mechanisms for anti-violence and it is a top priority for us, if anyone, including our fellow colleagues, have examples or best practices that they want to share.

We also have elders in our schools that can be used as counsellors to talk to the students and are there with our students on a daily basis as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 703 – 6(2): Adult Learning and Training Supports Program Application Deadlines

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will be aware, I am a strong advocate for adult learning, and I fully support any and all opportunities for Nunavummiut to access training and skills development that will lead them to jobs and employment opportunities.

Since April 2023, the government changed the funding application deadline for its Adult Learning and Training Supports Program to follow the same timetable as the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students application deadline.

Can the minister provide an update on whether there has been a change in the number of successful applications to the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program since this change has been made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. In regard to the number of applications to the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program for the year 2023-24, there are 154 students who have applied (interpretation ends) through Adult Learning and Training Supports. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am still interested to hear if there was a change in the number of successful applicants since the change was made.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the new deadline for the Adult Learning and Training Supports Program is having a very negative impact on adult learning in Pond Inlet. The community learning centre didn't get anyone applying for the Getting Ready for Employment and Training Program this winter, and I have heard from adult educators in other communities that adult learners have been unable to get funding because the new deadlines are not flexible enough to accommodate training and upgrading opportunities.

Can the minister clearly explain why a decision was made to align the application deadlines for adult training funding with the application deadlines for post-secondary education funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that follow-up question. With your first question about the change that was applied in 2022-23, I will look into it. For the application for training funding and since we changed the deadline, we have seen some changes and we will make some adjustments so that it will be easier. There is a need to make some changes, but we will review it periodically to make it easier for the students to apply. For the students in the communities, some might have applied after the deadline. We will make sure that we do a review periodically and make adjustments as necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the new application deadlines for the Adult Learning and Training Supports program are now aligned with the deadlines for students attending academic institutions instead of being geared towards training opportunities for

employment. In fact, the department's own public service announcement about the Adult Learning and Training Supports deadline states:

“If you intend to begin college or university in the Spring or Summer of 2024, it's important to apply to ALTS by March 1, 2024.”

However, it is quite clear on the departmental website that any Adult Learning and Training Supports training program “must not be post-secondary.”

Will the minister reconsider her decision to align the Adult Learning and Training Supports application deadline with the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students application deadline and reinstate the policy to permit adult learners to access funding when it aligns with opportunities for them to have training or upgrading so they can get jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. I indicated in my earlier response that we will periodically do a review and readjust it. As I also indicated earlier, sometimes the application forms are not readily available before the deadline date. We will make adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 704 – 6(2): Follow-up on Situation at Naja Isabelle Home

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet and Nunavummiut, as well as my fellow MLAs.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my questions to the Minister of Family Services.

Yesterday I spoke in this House about the importance of being open and transparent with respect to the incidents at the Naja Isabelle Home in Chesterfield Inlet.

Following the sitting, I was advised that a member of the media has been in touch with the head of the Pimaksirvik Corporation. The reporter indicated that the government had informed him that the contract to operate the Naja Isabelle Home would not be renewed as of April 1, 2024 and the department was looking for a new contractor. The chief executive officer of the Pimaksirvik Corporation was unaware of this decision.

For the record and in support of clear and transparent communication, can the minister confirm whether or not the contract with the Pimaksirvik Corporation will be terminated as of April 1, 2024? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for requesting further information. As I indicated yesterday, we've had correspondence with the president of the Pimaksirvik Corporation and we also sent a letter indicating that the contract expires on March 31, 2024 and that we will not be renewing the contract with them at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure you will share my concern that information might be shared with members of the media before it is conveyed to the parties directly involved.

Can the minister clarify whether or not government officials have been discussing this issue with the media and specifically whether information regarding the status of the contract to run the Naja Isabelle has been shared with members of the media? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify with the first question, I do recognize that the first question, in the last week or so, that question, I believe, was addressed to the Department of Health, but since then, we have committed to not renew the contract.

In terms of how we deal the media, we don't need to report to the media. We work directly with our clients, we work directly with and our staff, and we work directly with the corporation or any company that we might be dealing with. We don't need to report to the media. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In regard to my question, that's not the answer I was given because apparently that's where the CEO got the information was from a CBC reporter.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very difficult situation for everyone involved. A number of residents of the community of Chesterfield Inlet are employed at the Naja Isabelle Home and their jobs and reputations are on the line. They too deserve open and honest communication about the situation.

Will the minister commit to providing a full and complete report on the situation at the Naja Isabelle Home at the earliest possible time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. In regard to the staff, we will take them into consideration because they have been trained to take care of the clients and it's just not going to stop there. We are planning to repatriate Nunavut residents back home and the staff has been trained to make sure that the clients are in a safe environment. We know that it's going to have an effect, but we're looking at different options.

In regard to making a report, we won't make a report and with the investigation going on, we can't talk about the subject at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 705 – 6(2): Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the topic that has been discussed here today and yesterday by a few members is the price of fuel in Nunavut, specifically the PPD. My questions will be to the Minister responsible for CGS for PPD.

Mr. Speaker, in October the fuel prices or gas prices went up by 5 cents and a few months later, it went up by 15 cents, which doesn't make sense. Why didn't they just do one increase so that Nunavummiut wouldn't be penalized twice?

My first question to the minister is, the minister spoke little bit yesterday about the stabilization fund being plus or minus \$20 million. Mr. Speaker, what is the stabilization fund at right now currently today or the most current information that the minister has and what will it be by the end of the fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to reiterate, the Petroleum Products Division did set a nominal increase earlier on to avoid a bigger increase for Nunavummiut early on. That was the reasoning for two price increases on the fuel.

Mr. Speaker, for the stabilization fund, we are anticipating it's beyond the limit now and for this reason, my department is bringing forward supplementary funds to bring it back to within the limit during this winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents in Arviat would have probably want to have one big, hard cut instead of two small cuts where “I'm going to cut

you a little bit, so you will feel a little bit of pain, and then I'm going to cut you a little harder the second time we put the price up." It doesn't make any difference.

The department should be doing what it needs to do, not at that, but the minister didn't answer my question. What is the stabilization fund at currently? It's plus or minus \$20 million. The minister stated that it's over it, but what is it at? Does the minister have the response? What is it at right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did come forward to the members in the fall, asking what they would like to see around this price increase. In consultation with the members across this floor, we did institute a price increase later on instead of before the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Speaker, the stabilization fund sits at minus \$24,719,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know here, everyone in the House, that the PPD's role and responsibility is to sell fuel at the best possible price for Nunavummiut but not go in deficit. The stabilization fund is there to regulate it so that there are not big changes within fuel prices within Nunavut. That's the purpose of it.

Mr. Speaker, it seems like the PPD has not been doing their job very well if the stabilization fund is currently at minus \$24 million. I know that there have been capacity issues. The minister has spoken about it to the members here. I'll ask the minister: are there any positions in the PPD in Rankin Inlet where the work is not being done and that is the reasoning why the stabilization fund is so far in the whole? Is there a director? Is there a CEO? Is there somebody not doing their job? Is the job being done out of Rankin Inlet or is the position vacant?

Can we get an update on whoever is in control of the PPD in Rankin Inlet, if that person physically lives in Rankin Inlet and physically does their job in Rankin Inlet on a full-time basis to make sure that this stuff does not happen to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's frustrations around this and we too are on the government side are just as concerned and we do try to address, whether it's staffing or other factors that are making life hard for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Petroleum Products Division, as of November 30, 2023, has 35 positions, 17 of which were vacant. We do have a new director in place who is no stranger to the division and we hope to fill those vacancies, but alongside this, the

Petroleum Products Division is preparing and working towards having more structured price adjustments for future years. We want to look at making it more of a set date as to when fuel prices are adjusted instead of having it at different times of the year. We're anticipating that work to unfold in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 706 – 6(2): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, he recently wrote a letter to me concerning the Qulliq Energy Corporation's application for approval to replace one of the three generators at the Kugaaruk power plant. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's efforts to keep me informed about this work.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the next steps in the approval process for this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. At this time, after the application, the corporation was reviewing the application and then the application was given to my office and then I had given the application to the Utility Rates Review Council. This entity is independent, so they're working on it at arm's length from the government and they are dealing with the application, and then they will provide the information to me once they have made a decision on whether they are in support or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Kugaaruk's current power plant is almost 50 years old. That's almost half a century.

The corporation's recent application indicates that:

"The Qulliq Energy Corporation received a major project permit in June of 2022 to replace the power plant in Kugaaruk. Subsequent to receiving that major permit, the Qulliq Energy Corporation determined it would not replace the power plant in Kugaaruk at this time."

Mr. Speaker, for the record, can the minister confirm if the decision to cancel the new power plant was approved by the corporation's board of directors, the minister, or the cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My understanding is that Kugaaruk's power plant is still on the priority listing as one of the oldest power plants in Nunavut and still is in line for replacement. A new power plant has not been cancelled. I could understand, though, where the member could have that impression given that the corporation is applying to replace a generator set in the community.

Mr. Speaker, replacing the G1 generator set in Kugaaruk, which has operated for approximately 55,000 hours as of the date of application, is intended to buy the corporation some time in terms of allowing reliable power to continue being provided to Kugaaruk residents.

We still have plans to replace the entire plant in Kugaaruk at a later date once additional funding becomes available. When that happens, the new generator set which is being applied for, if it is installed, would be either relocated to another community or integrated into the new plant at a future date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's recent application indicates that:

"The Arctic Energy Fund program had a hard cap on total funding for all projects. Power plant costs increased from the time that the original budgets were prepared and the Qulliq Energy Corporation elected to prioritize completion of other projects with the available Arctic Energy Fund funding."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure me and my constituents that the Qulliq Energy Corporation remains committed to the construction of a new power plant for Kugaaruk and that it will continue to work to identify new sources of funding for the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes and yes, and I thank the member for raising this issue. Providing reliable power to Nunavummiut, including Kugaarummiut, is important for the corporation. We have a number of projects in front of us, but we are ambitious and are looking for additional sources of federal funding as we speak. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 707 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the new Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I want to revisit the issue of Kugluktuk's long-delayed but much-needed new power plant.

As the minister is aware, Kugluktuk's existing power plant is over 50 years old and in urgent need of replacement.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent attempt to award a tender for the construction of a new power plant was unsuccessful.

When I raised this issue during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the former minister indicated that the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation would be involved in the project to construct a new power plant for Kugluktuk.

Can the new minister clarify the role of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation in this project?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for raising this issue in his question. We are concerned about the Kugluktuk power plant. We can hear the singers from the '60s and they are still enjoyable today, but the old power plants and buildings from the 1960s are no longer usable.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there may be a bit of a misunderstanding. In December 2023 the Qulliq Energy Corporation received approval to enter contract negotiations with the Kitikmeot Corporation to enable this project to progress. We're looking for an alternative way to reach a successful project initiation, design, and construction. As the member mentioned, there have been four tenders that have gone out and closed unsuccessfully, so we're looking for an alternative way to get this plant built.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response.
(interpretation ends) Yes, there must have been a mistake with the Kitikmeot Corporation and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent tender for the new power plant in Kugluktuk closed in May of last year. Information published by the government indicates that it was "cancelled due to budgetary constraints."

Can the minister clarify the next steps in the procurement process for Kugluktuk's new power plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. Yes, after December, the QEC was mentioned with the Kitikmeot Corporation. They are still in discussions as to what agreement will be made, which we will eventually arrive at. As to the urgency, which is understandable, the building was constructed in 1968 and it is still used today and it's insufficient for the community. It is widely known now that it will be built and it's only after we reach an agreement that we will start construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you for the response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During last fall's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the former minister indicated that although the new power plant in Kugluktuk would no longer be a hybrid solar-diesel design, it would "incorporate current technology to improve fuel efficiency, reduce noise and air pollution, and respond to increased energy needs in the community."

(interpretation ends) Can the minister confirm if the new power plant will include any alternative energy design elements or will it be a 100 percent diesel-powered plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member's question is around whether it would be 100 percent diesel. Yes, that is the plan.

As the member mentioned, there was a renewable energy component in the project in earlier phases. Unfortunately that had to be cut due to budgetary constraints. However, once the new plant is built in Kugluktuk, being a new asset, it would be able to integrate renewable power should a renewable power project come to fruition in Kugluktuk in the future, let's say for example, through the Independent Power Producer Program. Being a new plant, it would be able to integrate that source of power much easier than the existing one.

Mr. Speaker, we are really looking forward to seeing that new plant in Kugluktuk built. It would be new technology, more fuel efficient, less pollution, less noise, and also safer for our employees, so it's a project we are really hoping to see advance in the near term in terms of reaching a negotiated contract. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 708 – 6(2): IT Systems Integrated into GN Network

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the Qulliq Energy Corporation minister has the new hot seat.

Mr. Speaker, in January of last year the Qulliq Energy Corporation was the victim of a cyber-attack, and it was announced in June 2023 that the transition of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's IT system would be transitioned to the Government of Nunavut's. Is the transition complete, and can the minister also confirm that customer data was secure? There was an investigation that was occurring around then. Were there any additional cyber safety issues identified during that investigation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the questions. Mr. Speaker, the update in terms of the IT transition into the GN network is continuing with the work being completed by our partners at Community and Government Services' Information Technology. The work is continuing in terms of our administrative and managerial systems within the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

We are more or less on schedule with the project, so that's something that we're pleased to see. We're noticing benefits already in terms of integration within the GN network, for example, using Microsoft Teams. Some things are being made easier through that integration in terms of working with our partners at GN departments.

In terms of the second part of the question regarding the personal data of Qulliq Energy Corporation customers, investigation into that matter was completed and there was no evidence of any personal or financial data being compromised, which is good news. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, it was also stated then that there would be no additional cost for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. To me, it's not as simple as just flicking a switch from one network to another. There are staffing issues. There are other equipment impacts in various areas, such as that was mentioned, switches, servers, storage, and bandwidth. How was cost neutrality achieved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Qulliq Energy Corporation did put in a submission to the Financial Management Board for support in terms of trying to make sure that our valued customers are protected from

the additional costs. To date, approximately half of the approved submission has been spent in terms of the work on the rebuild. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In June of last year, the Minister of Community and Government Services stated that the transition of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's network operations to his department will include a thorough analysis of organizational design, housing, unions, and location of positions. What were the results of that analysis and will it be shared with this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's a matter that I'll have to look into further. I'm not currently in possession of that detailed information, but I can certainly consult with my colleague or maybe at the officials' level, there will be a consultation and I can certainly get back to the member with that information. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 709 – 6(2): Health Registries

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to reassure the Minister for the QEC that he's off the hot seat. However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, last year the Canada Revenue Agency included an option on its 2022 tax return forms where Nunavut residents could indicate whether they wanted to receive information about becoming an organ or tissue donor.

As I stated when asking questions on this issue last year, I am in strong support of initiatives which can save lives or drastically improve someone's life. The minister also indicated his support.

In 2023 the Canada Revenue Agency collected information from Nunavummiut tax returns regarding their interest in organ and tissue donation. In his response to my question last year, the minister indicated that the agency would hold that information until a memorandum of understanding was established.

Can the minister update this House on whether such a memorandum has been established and, if so, is there now a Nunavut registry of potential organ and tissue donors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. (interpretation ends) I'll have to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker. I'm not in possession of that information, however, fully intending to get that information back to the member on that topic. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster. I'm sorry; my earpiece is not working well this morning. The question was taken as notice.

Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Question 710 – 6(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Policies

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I don't think the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation was done being on the hot seat, so I will ask him some questions.

(interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I want to follow up on some issues that I raised with the minister's predecessor during the recent fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

As the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a public service announcement last October. This announcement stated that:

“Homeowners are responsible to have a qualified residential electrician inspect and repair damage to customer-owned equipment required for electrical service.”

When I raised this issue during the recent fall sitting, I pointed out that the Qulliq Energy Corporation's public service announcement made it sound as though it is easy for homeowners living in small communities like Igloolik and Whale Cove to find a qualified residential electrician on short notice.

Can the minister tell me today how many qualified residential electricians actually live in Igloolik and Whale Cove? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's not information that I have at this time in terms of the availability of electricians who could service homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the purpose of that announcement was to spread awareness around the division of responsibilities in terms of the Qulliq Energy Corporation is responsible

for the delivery of power, but there is a point where the homeowner's responsibility takes over in terms of the mast and it's precisely right in between the power pole, the line going to the house, and then the mast. That's where the Qulliq Energy Corporation's responsibility ends and the homeowner's responsibility begins.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is aware that homeowners can face issues and we deal with issues on a case-by-case basis and we make every effort to be accommodating and supportive of homeowners when we are dealing with them around technical issues. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying this issue. However, I would like to know if there are qualified electricians in smaller communities that are identified.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, homeowners can be without power for days or even weeks if their service masts suffer damage caused by high winds. I believe that the Qulliq Energy Corporation should have a more flexible approach to these types of situations. For example, the corporation could look at performing the necessary work for the impacted homeowner on a cost recovery basis. Will the minister commit to reviewing the Qulliq Energy Corporation's policy in this area, yes or no? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can certainly commit to looking into this area and discussing with my officials.

In terms of the concept of having the Qulliq Energy Corporation's staff performing work on houses, it might be an area that we would have to consider quite carefully, looking at issues around liability and also regulatory issues in terms of the difference between a line technician and a residential electrician and the different streams of work. Basically that's how I understand it.

Mr. Speaker, we do know that homeowners face costs and some of our customers face barriers in terms of getting their electrical issues resolved. That's why the Qulliq Energy Corporation has set aside a budget and we are looking at developing an assistance program to support customers who are having issues. It's something that's under development, but we're looking at supporting elders and at-risk individuals with related costs. That's something that we are working on currently. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for stating that it's being worked on.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, the 2023-24 Ministerial Letter of Expectation to the Chair of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Board of Directors was tabled in the House during the recent fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

The 2024-25 fiscal year begins in a few weeks from today.

Can the minister indicate what new priorities he will be including in the next letter of expectation in regard to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's customer service policies?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am currently not in a position to share the contents of the letter as it pertains to customer service, but I'll certainly make sure that the letter is written in a manner that's clear and that customer service issues are an item in which we make our expectations clear to the board. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 711 – 6(2): Planning Act

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me a second time today. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services, and they concern his department's work to introduce a new territorial *Planning Act*.

This important piece of legislation addresses such matters as land development approvals and zoning matters, which directly impact our constituents in respect to such critical needs as housing development.

As the minister is aware, his department recently held public consultations in a number of communities, including Iqaluit.

Can the minister update the House today on what feedback his department has been receiving from Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, my department is wishing to repeal and replace the *Planning Act* and that piece of legislation was enacted back in 1974, which is out of date and the current practices in Nunavut, we want to use updated... .

Mr. Speaker, the consultations were held in five communities and they were completed in January, last month. As for the details on what information was collected, we are assessing that and also it will inform when we do come forward with a new piece of the *Planning Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to deliver a minister's statement on this, so details to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I also want to thank the community members who took part in those consultations. It's really important to use your voice on very important issues.

Mr. Speaker, officials from the minister's department recently appeared before the City of Iqaluit's Planning and Development Committee in November 2023 to make a presentation on the proposed new legislation.

As the minister is aware, the City of Iqaluit has been considering a "Private Sector Land Development Strategy" that involves Inuit development corporations working on proposals for "Inuit-purposed housing."

Can the minister clarify the extent to which his department's proposed changes to territorial legislation will impact such initiatives and will he commit to ensuring that the City of Iqaluit will be invited to provide formal feedback as this work progresses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I echo the member's acknowledgement and appreciation for those that participated in this consultation and the input people provided is invaluable to the work that's ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to reach all stakeholders in this process and also recognizing that there are different initiatives that are led from different sectors. Mr. Speaker, a new *Planning Act*, I think, will be all-encompassing regarding developers or how land is being used for different purposes. Mr. Speaker, my department is engaging the city as well as other parties on this and we look forward with that piece of legislation in the future, hopefully by next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Information published by the minister's department indicates that the current territorial *Planning Act* "pre-dates the creation of Nunavut and the *Nunavut Agreement*. The *Planning Act* needs to be amended so that it fully reflects the state of planning in Nunavut, including the planning needs of

municipalities, and accounts for legislative and policy changes within our territory since division.”

As the minister is aware, the recently signed Devolution Final Agreement includes provisions for amendments to the *Nunavut Agreement*, and as the minister will recall, I have asked a number of questions concerning the Government of Nunavut’s review of the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Can the minister describe how his department’s work to bring forward a new *Planning Act* is being coordinated with the implementation of the devolution agreement and the review of the Nunavut Land Use Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Repealing and replacing the *Planning Act* is to comply with Article 11 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. In that sense, we are also mindful around new development, such as the devolution agreement and the land use plan. If they do have an impact, we try to be mindful around how they work together for the betterment of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, on the *Planning Act*, we are trying to put it in a way that Inuit-led and Inuit voices are well heard throughout the process on planning for lands and municipal areas, as well as elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for bringing this up.

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

Question 712 – 6(2): Taxes on Fuel

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Community and Government Services for saving me a few seconds and allowing me an opportunity to ask a second round of questions.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, as I previously mentioned during our fall sitting, decisions made by the Minister of Finance have a significant impact on the cost of living in Nunavut, whether it is the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program offsetting costs to small and medium businesses, the child tax benefit paid to low income families, as well as the household allowance which is provide to a majority of homeowners in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, another matter is the petroleum tax rates on all fuel purchased and imported in Nunavut. As of January 1, 2024, the current year, those petroleum product tax rates for motive diesel is set at 9.1 cents per litre and non-motive diesel is set at 3.1 cents per litre.

For my first question to the minister, for tax purposes, can the minister explain what is defined as non-motive diesel and why differentiate between the two forms of diesel fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motive diesel is for trucks and vehicles that run on diesel, and non-motive diesel is for things like generators and diesel products that will not move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for elaborating on that. I'm assuming non-motive diesel generation also applies to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's fuel used for power generation.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Department of Finance and the Government of Nunavut had played a key role along with the other territories in negotiating an exemption for the federal carbon tax on fuel used for power generation as well as aviation fuel.

Mr. Speaker, it has been years since those negotiations were concluded, and I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut for ensuring that our fuel used for power generation by the Qulliq Energy Corporation was exempt, but I'm curious why the government would seek an exemption on the carbon tax for fuel used for power generation, yet continue to apply its own fuel tax on the same fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The eastern provinces were successful in negotiating and dealing with the tax exemption and our territory was included in those negotiations. As for why it did not include automotive fuel, diesel fuel, I do not know at this point and I would be more than happy to get back to my colleague when I do find out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very grateful that Nunavummiut are exempt from home heating fuel with regard to the carbon tax as well as the Government of Nunavut's own fuel tax. However, the cost of living continues to rise and the cost of fuel continues to rise, and the carbon tax itself is set to increase again in April to 17 cents per litre.

Mr. Speaker, our cost of living is steadily increasing. As the Qulliq Energy Corporation is the largest consumer of fuel products in the territory, using in excess of 50 million litres a

year, this GN fuel tax on non-motive diesel fuel is contributing to the increasing cost of living here in Nunavut.

I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to consider amending the fuel tax rates and allowing for an exemption for the fuel used by the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which is then passed on to the end users, all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The taxes that we do receive from different sectors and different tax bases that we use go on to support to be able to deliver many of the programs that we do run from the government to be able to support Nunavummiut. I could take a look at it to see how much of an impact that this would have and if it would, in fact, stop or slow down some of the other services that we do provide to our taxpayers and Nunavummiut in general. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, with the four zeroes on the screen, 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 230 – 6(2): Family Wellness Strategic Framework 2023-28

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Department of Family Services' Ilagiitsiarniq Family Wellness Strategic Framework 2023-28.

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

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

Tabled Document 231 – 6(2): Country Food Distribution Program 2020-21 and 2021-22 Annual Reports

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Annual Report of the Country Food Distribution Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

Tabled Document 232 – 6(2): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council 2022-23 Annual Report

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council 2022-23 Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Tabled Document 233 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Community and Government Services in Response to Oral Question 662 – 6(2)

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As you will recall, I asked a number of questions in the House during the recent fall sitting concerning Igloolik's drinking water infrastructure.

I am pleased to table today a copy of the Minister of Community and Government Services' recent correspondence to me on this issue, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of... . Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Tabled Document 234 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Community and Government Services in Response to Oral Question 681 – 6(2)

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you will recall, I asked a number of questions in the House during the recent fall sitting concerning the important issue of community morgues.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today a copy of the Minister of Community and Government Services' recent correspondence to me on this issue, which I encourage all members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 029 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days – Notice**

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 26, I will move the following motion:

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 37 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2024-2025 – Notice

Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024 – Notice

Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2023-2024 – Notice

Bill 40 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025 – Notice

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 26, 2024, I will have the following motions:

- Bill 37, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2024-2025*;
- Bill 38, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2023-2024*;
- Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2023-2024*; and
- Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025*, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in the committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the meetings of the standing committees start this afternoon at half past one.

Orders of the Day for February 26:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address

3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Responses to Petitions
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motions
17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
 - Motion 29 – 6(2)
19. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 37
 - Bill 38
 - Bill 39
 - Bill 40
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of the Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Monday, February 26, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:56*

Appendix – February 23, 2024



Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Adam Lightstone, MLA, Iqaluit- Manirajak

Asked of: Hon. Joelle Kaerner, Minister responsible
for Qulliq Energy Corporation

Number: Question 677 – 6(2)

Date: November 9, 2023

Subject: Commercial and Institutional Power Producer
Program

Question 1: My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and are regarding the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer program.

As the minister will recall, he recently signed the 2023-24 letter of expectation to the Chair of Qulliq Energy Corporation's board of directors. Mr. Speaker, in this letter of expectation, the minister indicated that he expects the corporation to complete the pricing structure for the Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program.

As we are now halfway through the fiscal year, I would like to ask if the minister can provide an update today on the status of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response 1:

QEC will currently pay the avoided cost of diesel (i.e., what QEC pays for diesel per 1 kWh of power generated) for energy produced by a Commercial and Institutional Power Producer (CIPP) customer that has successfully completed all stages of assessment and signed an Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA) with QEC. This allows the CIPP program to be cost neutral, meaning that it will not increase the cost of electricity for QEC customers.

QEC acknowledges that the Government of Nunavut may want to offer a higher price to power producers to incentivize their participation in renewable energy programs, as was recommended in the *Specialized Pricing Strategy for Renewable Energy Suppliers* to QEC of April 2021. QEC has submitted a Request for Decision to the Cabinet with Renewable Energy subsidy pricing options the Government may consider to increase the purchase price for energy under the IPP Program. These Renewable Energy Subsidy options will also apply to pricing under the CIPP program.

Question 2:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the minister's response.

Mr. Speaker, this Commercial and Institutional Power Producer Program was launched in March of 2021, two and a half years ago. Since then, I've asked previous ministers of Qulliq Energy Corporation as well as Community and Government Services to begin negotiations and finalize a purchase agreement that would allow the Government of Nunavut to connect its assets to the grid.

I would like to ask the minister for an update on any discussions and negotiations currently occurring between Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response 2:

After the CIPP program launched in March of 2021, proponents have submitted applications to QEC to undertake Connection Impact Assessments (CIA) and technical discussions. Some applicants are from various departments within the Government of Nunavut. Four CIPP customers are connected to the QEC grid, and the corporation is currently working on 11 other CIPP applications at various stages of the assessment process.

If the Government of Nunavut approves a Renewable Energy Subsidy to be applied to pricing for IPP and CIPP programs, this will factor into the Energy Purchase Agreement signed between the proponent and QEC. Until that time, QEC will continue to operate both the IPP and CIPP programs utilizing the purchase price of the avoided cost of diesel.