

#### Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak (Baker Lake)

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

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

> Pat Angnakak (Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (Cambridge Bay) Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Oullig Energy Corporation

Hon. George Hickes (Iqaluit-Tasiluk) Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. David Joanasie (South Baffin) Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Education; Minister of Languages

Joelie Kaernerk (Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak (Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak (Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (Rankin Inlet South) Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Human Resources

> Adam Lightstone (Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main (Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk (Pangnirtung)

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

> Paul Quassa (Aggu)

Allan Rumbolt (Hudson Bay) Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

#### Hon. Joe Savikataaq

(Arviat South) Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(Iqaluit-Sinaa) Government House Leader; Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

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## Iqaluit, Nunavut Wednesday, May 29, 2019 Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

# >>House commenced at 13:31

# **Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): I ask Member Towtongie if she can say the opening prayer, please. Ms. Towtongie.

# >>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Member Towtongie. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I wish to read a letter that I have received from the Commissioner of Nunavut.

# **Money Message**

(interpretation ends) I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly:

• Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020; • Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020.

Sincerely, Nelly T. Kusugak, Order of Nunavut, Commissioner of Nunavut

(interpretation) Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Minister Savikataaq.

# Item 2: Ministers' Statements

# Minister's Statement 218 – 5(2): Council of the Federation Literacy Awards

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the nomination period for the 2019 Council of the Federation Literacy Awards is now open. I'm looking to recognize a Nunavut recipient who supports, encourages, and shares ways to strengthen literacy skills in our territory.

Every year, recipients from every jurisdiction across the country are recognized for their work to support and inspire others to develop their literacy – oral, written, or through artistic expression. Here in Nunavut we look for individuals who focus on Inuktitut literacy development and promotion.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Nunavummiut to nominate someone who has gone above and beyond to support others to develop their literacy skills. Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible. It could be a student, a teacher, a community volunteer, an elder, or a co-worker.

Colleagues, your constituency offices have received a letter and nomination forms to promote this award in your communities. The deadline for nominations is May 31. It's coming quick. Please help me in making this year's literacy award a success, recognizing a very special person for their incredible contributions to fostering and preserving our language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Sheutiapik.

# Minister's Statement 219 – 5(2): QNSWC Appointments and Reappointments

# Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

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

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) in November 2018 the Qulliit Nunavut Status of Women Council undertook a public nomination process that called for interested women to apply as board members. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to take this opportunity to announce the appointments of:

- Anne Isnor of Cambridge Bay;
- Luann Saumik of Whale Cove;
- Laureen Pameolik of Arviat;

- Seané d'Argencourt-Printup of Iqaluit; and
- Doreen Kalluk-McDonald of Resolute Bay.

(interpretation) Additionally, Angie Curley of Arviat was reappointed as vice-president, and Sileema Angoyuak of Iqaluit was reappointed as president.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) please join me in congratulating these women on their appointments, and recognizing the work of the Qulliit Nunavut Status of Women Council in advocating for the best interests of women and girls across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### >>Applause

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

# Minister's Statement 220 – 5(2): Tourism Summit and Strategy

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation hosted The Spirit of the Arctic: Tourism Summit in Iqaluit in April to facilitate the development of a new tourism strategy.

(interpretation ends) Over 120 delegates attended the summit, including tour operators, outfitters, community leaders, Inuit organizations, territorial and federal government departments, as well as national and international tourism organizations and businesses.

Major topics included:

- tourism market insights and a marketing plan;
- marine tourism and sustainable expedition cruises;
- national and territorial parks;
- community-based tourism for the business traveller audience;
- tourism development and investment; and
- staying true to our roots: how to maintain authenticity in tourism.

The pre-summit training program had 16 Nunavummiut from 10 communities. This provided the basic business requirements and helped them prepare for tourists.

In addition, we signed memorandums of understanding with two significant industry partners: the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada. These agreements foster a closer working relationship between operators of expedition cruise ships and Nunavut stakeholders. They also create opportunities to develop and support tourism among Inuit in Nunavut.

A final report on the summit is being written. A steering committee will be created and will work with the department to shape the priorities and pillars of the next tourism strategy. The department plans to table the strategy in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

Speaker: Minister Statements. Hon.

Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

# Minister's Statement 221 – 5(2): Nunavut Celebrates National Nursing Week May 6 to 12, 2019

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the week of May 6 to 12, as part of National Nursing Week, the Department of Health recognized the hard work and dedicated commitment of Nunavut's nurses.

"A Voice to Lead – Health for All" was this year's National Nursing Week theme. "A Voice to Lead" reflects the fact that every nurse has a story and every story has the potential to improve the health system and provide individuals and communities access to quality standards of health. "Health for All" means not just the availability of health services but an overall state of physical and mental health that enables a person to lead a healthy life.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember the hard-working nurses across our growing territory. This year the Department of Health used the #Voicetolead on Government of Nunavut social media sites to recognize our nurses and to thank them for their work. It was gratifying to see the many positive and uplifting public comments on the social media posts for our Nunavut nurses.

Mr. Speaker, nurses in Nunavut advocate for their patients, their families, and their communities and contribute directly to the health and well-being of Nunavummiut. I encourage everyone to continue to take the time to offer a word of thanks and encouragement to the nurses in your community. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one particular nurse. Jenifer Bujold was recently awarded the Indigenous Services Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Award of Excellence in Nursing. This annual award celebrates the dedication, initiative, and excellence of nurses working with First Nations communities, Indigenous Services Canada, and Inuit communities, who work in partnership to improve the health of Canada's indigenous peoples.

Mr. Speaker, as a community health nurse in Baker Lake, Jenifer created the Baker Lake Flex Schedule, which is a pilot project that has benefited staff and patients by increasing work-life balance for nurses and offering safer provision of care and increasing patient satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, Jenifer is currently the clinical nurse educator for the Kitikmeot region and resides in Cambridge Bay. In this leadership role, Jenifer continues to apply her clinical expertise to promote quality, culturally safe nursing practices, continuous quality improvement initiatives, optimal health outcomes, and positive health care experiences.

Please join me in congratulating Jenifer on receiving this national award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker**: Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Sheutiapik.

### Minister's Statement 222 – 5(2): 2019 Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship

#### Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I must say I am honoured to stand here to introduce this. As a former first member of Qulliq Energy, I was involved in this scholarship.

I am pleased to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is once again offering a \$5,000 scholarship in memory of Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier. Students enrolled in a post-secondary education program for the September 2019 semester are eligible and are encouraged to apply by June 30, 2019. The recipient will be chosen based on their exceptional academic abilities and involvement in their community.

Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier is remembered as an [invaluable] member of Nunavut's foundational stages of government. She had a vision for leadership by Nunavummiut and was essential in the formation of the locally managed electrical utility, now known as the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Recipients of the scholarship in Ms. Gauthier's memory have often been strong leaders in their communities.

*Uqaqtitsijii*, I would like to urge students from all communities who are pursuing their goals of completing post-secondary education to visit the Qulliq Energy Corporation's website. Further information as well as application forms can be found on the community involvement page.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation has been a proud [supporter] of Nunavut students for over a decade. With each passing year, the quality of [applicants] has strengthened, not only in academic achievements but in their sense of community. This gives me great hope for the future of Nunavut.

Please join me in wishing all scholarship applicants the best of luck. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

# Minister's Statement 223 – 5(2): Emergency Operations Centre

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the residents of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues about some very important work that the Community and Government Services' Emergency Management Division has been involved with over the last little while, that is, the creation of an emergency operations centre in Nunavut. This is the first of its kind for the territory.

The emergency operations centre will function as a central location for all planning and strategic processes to take place during emergencies. This centre will be where all emergency management stakeholders gather, collect and analyze data in order to quickly and efficiently make decisions. We believe that the use of this centre will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency management actions across the territory. CGS has also been proactive in emergency planning by securing heated storage space in Iqaluit and purchasing various emergency management equipment that can be deployed to municipalities in short order to assist with water, sewage, and power outages as they arise.

We anticipate that the centre will be completed and ready for use by the end of August. I look forward to being able to offer my colleagues a tour of the facility in fall session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister Education, Minister Joanasie.

## Minister's Statement 224 – 5(2): Inuktut Language Learning Apps

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, members, as well as the residents of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, 2019 is the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages. In honour of that, I would like to share with you how the Department of Education is expanding Inuktut language learning.

Mr. Speaker, language learning apps allow even very young children to play with language and learn about vocabulary, writing, and other fundamental literacy skills. To support that, my department has developed two Inuktut language apps available as free downloads for Android and Apple devices. Mr. Speaker, our first app, Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit, teaches common Inuktut vocabulary for things like arctic animals, household objects, emotions, and parts of the body. This app can be used in Inuktitut syllabics, Inuktitut roman orthography, and Inuinnaqtun and has been downloaded over 1,000 times.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our second app, Titirariuqsauti, was released earlier this year. Titirariuqsauti teaches how to form all the syllabics in the Inuktitut syllabic chart. The user selects a syllabic and practises tracing the printing path with their finger, then they see and hear a word that includes that syllabic.

Mr. Speaker, both of these apps are user friendly and easy to navigate. They can be used in early childhood education, kindergarten to grade 12 literacy instruction, and as a family activity at home with parents and elders.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to using mobile digital platforms for Inuktut language promotion and revitalization. In this way my department can engage a younger generation of Nunavummiut to take their Inuktut language learning anywhere and at their own pace.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to download these apps to their smartphones or tablets to support Inuktut learning every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Let us proceed with the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

## Item 3: Members' Statements

# Member's Statement 338 – 5(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's Teacher Graduates

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, members.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Sanikiluaq graduates of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

#### >>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it has been noted many times in this House that Nunavut's education system is in dire need of Nunavut-trained teaching professionals.

I am very proud of these Sanikiluaq residents who have put in years of dedicated study and hard work to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq's 2019 graduates from the Nunavut Teacher Education Program are:

- Sarah Kudluarok Kowcharlie;
- Meena Hoyt;
- Charlotte Crow;
- Alice Kavik Sala; and
- Leah Meeko

These individuals are role models for our youth and our young adults who may also dream of becoming the educators for Nunavut's future.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that our Minister of Education as well as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College will be attending the graduation ceremony following our spring sitting. On behalf of the graduates, I thank them for their support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nunavut's newest teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

# Member's Statement 339 – 5(2): Foster Care

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk as well as those in Taloyoak and to my colleagues as well.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to talk about the important issue of foster care.

Mr. Speaker, every child deserves and needs a loving home in which they are well cared for.

I would like to pay tribute to the people in our communities who have taken on the responsibility of being foster parents.

Foster parents play a very important role, and it is important that we as a government give them every possible support.

Mr. Speaker, it is not always easy to find the funds to address every request that we get from our communities. However, I am certain that all of my colleagues would agree with me when I say that we need to put children first.

# >>Applause

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I represent two non-decentralized communities where jobs are scarce. I am aware of situations in my constituency where people have taken on the responsibility of being foster parents, even though they are struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living in our isolated communities is very high and we must ensure that the support we provide to foster parents is adequate to ensure the well-being of children under their care.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will have questions for the appropriate minister on this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

### Member's Statement 340 – 5(2): Activities of Ilisaqsivik

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, as well as to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to follow up on my statement yesterday in which I said I would bring forward the names of counsellors that travel to communities who are under stress and who are tasked by the Ilisaqsivik Society to attend to communities requiring assistance or counselling services after an incident. The counsellors provide a much-needed service. Recently there were several counsellors who travelled to one of my constituency communities to provide assistance during a time of hardship. I would like to announce their names since the Ilisaqsivik Society's counsellors aren't just from Clyde River anymore. Other communities now have Inuit trained as counsellors who they can task with travelling to a community in need through Ilisaqsivik.

The two counsellors from Clyde River were Rebecca Audlakiak-Panipak and Jusa Iqaqrialu. Jusa Iqaqrialu is a youth counsellor who works with affected youth. As life counsellors are of various ages, some are elders while others are youth. Jusa Iqaqrialu generally counsels youth who are affected and he works with them to overcome their issues.

Further, there were also two counsellors who travelled from another community that was not Clyde River. They came up from the South Baffin as requested by the Ilisaqsivik Society to assist. They are Lucassie Ikkidluak and Mitchell Ikkidluak. They were able to come up and provide services to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq through the Ilisaqsivik Society.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to this issue, there are life counsellors in other communities who have positions funded by the government. I recently met with the group who travelled to our community and they conveyed some of their concerns to me that they wanted me to raise. I will have questions about this matter at the appropriate time. I will have questions to the Minister of Family Services regarding the life counsellors because apparently they are not allowed to work with the department. This is extremely disconcerting in light of the tremendous work that is still required.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, this continues to spark deep concern amongst the nongovernmental and public sector life counsellors because the government counsellors have absolutely no collaboration with the Ilisaqsivik Society counsellors who travel to communities under the society's mandate. They are all Inuit counsellors who travel to the communities to assist families.

Several communities already have life skills counsellors under the GN, but they have no relationship with the society's counsellors and thereby no collaborative work. The government counsellors and the Ilisaqsivik Society counsellors that are tasked to travel, in my view, should be closely collaborating with each other. They are both working towards counselling Inuit with the proper life skills and because of the importance of this subject, there ought to be cooperation.

Why is the government trying to skirt its duties? Are they trying to do different things? What obstacles are faced by the Department of Family Services in trying to cooperate with indigenous counsellors? I believe we need to seriously debate this issue as we all state that suicide is preventable and that we have to stop this act. We all make statements as MLAs about the need to have better cooperation, to provide better services for our constituents, and many of us are passionate in expressing our concerns.

All workers within a sector should be working together, and when the left doesn't know what the right is doing, people fall through the cracks. We must try to resolve these issues, and at the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

# Member's Statement 341 – 5(2): Congratulations to Grizzlies Soccer Team

**Ms. Kamingoak**: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and pride to rise in this House today to congratulate the Kugluktuk Grizzlies soccer team on their repeat success at the Junior Super Soccer Tournament held in Yellowknife this year.

# >>Applause

Mr. Speaker, under the guidance of coaches Liam Savoie and Joey Phillips,

our grades 6 and 7 boys' soccer team played some great games and won the championship back to back. I would like to recognize our players:

- Captain Jonathan Ihumatak
- Mason Klengenberg
- Skylor Tiktalek
- Zach Nivingalok
- Nolan Norberg
- Dan Akana
- Andre Ihumatak
- Nolan Toasi
- Garrett Nivingalok
- Nolan Demerah
- Josh Olson
- Edgar Dupont
- Paul MacDonald
- Kaden Klengenberg, and
- Spencer Elgok.

Mr. Speaker, while I am certain that wearing that gold medal feels good, I am confident that taking part in this amazing tournament with over 100 teams and 1,000 athletes is an experience these players will remember for a long time.

I congratulate the Kugluktuk Grizzlies on their achievements, not only for winning the Super Soccer title but also for being active, for playing a great sport, and for striving to be the best they can be.

Go Grizzlies! Koana, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker**: Members' Statements. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

# Member's Statement 342 – 5(2): Recognition of Akittiq Angutiqjuaq and Joyce Alariaq Atagutaaluk

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of my community and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and for you to join me in congratulating Feeding Nunavut. I'm sure its name is very well recognized in Nunavut. Feeding Nunavut recognized two people from my community for their hard work: Akittiq Angutiqjuaq and Joyce Alariaq Attagutaluk. These two individuals have helped our community tremendously in feeding residents in need. They provide different types of services, including volunteer work for fellow residents. Obviously there are other volunteers like them throughout our communities.

I wanted to recognize them for their initiatives, for not only providing food but also providing books and toys during the Christmas season for families who live in poverty, with books and toys being the majority of the gifts.

I wanted to mention Feeding Nunavut because they are also proud of receiving Aeroplan points. They have provided an essential service that provides tangible benefits. These Aeroplan points are for the two founders to take a well-deserved rest for their immense service to our community in providing much-needed assistance.

I again congratulate Akittiq Angutiqjuaq and Joyce Alariaq Attagutaluk. Let's congratulate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. >>Applause

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

# Member's Statement 343 – 5(2): Inuit Employment Levels in Nunavut Mines

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues. I still had 22 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the potential employment opportunities within the mining sector, as these are jobs that one would really love to have in Nunavut.

Let me first start by speaking to these issues. One must be ambitious to apply. We face food insecurity and a lack of employment opportunities. This is causing many people to become despondent where they lose the will to live. This is happening to Nunavummiut. The lack of opportunity is killing our people because they have no prospects for employment. Even as they apply, it manifests itself in physical ailments and mental and physical challenges caused by the lack of housing.

We have 15,000 recipients, Mr. Speaker, 15,000 Nunavummiut on income support, or (interpretation ends) welfare or social assistance, (interpretation) and this is inappropriate in light of the development of mines within Nunavut. There are now four operating mines in Nunavut in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, as well as here in the Baffin region. There are still too few Nunavummiut employed at these mines currently. Not enough Nunavut residents are working and all we see are jets that pass through Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet that are bringing workers from (interpretation ends) southern Canada. (interpretation) There are still not enough residents of Nunavut who are working at these mines. I am disgusted by this lack of action.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our government's investment in mine training to date is pathetic. It is absolutely pathetic! Our government talks a big talk about mining being a pillar of our economy. Well, walk the walk and put some money into getting our residents trained up, getting them educated so that they can get the jobs.

#### >>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the mining companies want our residents to work. The barrier is education and training, and our government needs to seriously rethink what they are doing in terms of the amount of dollars that they are putting into mine training. At the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Minister of ED&T on this topic. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

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

# Member's Statement 344 – 5(2): The Grizzlies Movie

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize the tremendous efforts of two inspirational women who have used their artistic talent to bring an international spotlight to Nunavut. I recently had the opportunity to watch *The Grizzlies*, which tells the story of how lacrosse positively influenced school attendance and helped reduce the rate of teen suicides in the community.

The film was an emotional rollercoaster which had the audience in tears while also incorporating Inuit humour to bring laughs. Nearly every character in the film is based on a real person. Nearly every scene is something that actually happened. This movie touches on many of the social issues in Nunavut, including suicide, domestic violence, and food insecurity.

*The Grizzlies* movie was nearly ten years in the making and would not have been accomplished without the work of two Inuit producers as part of the key creative team. Ms. Stacey Aglok MacDonald is originally from Kugluktuk, where the true story took place, and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril is from Iqaluit, where the film was shot.

The project itself was a strong contributor to our economy in a sustainable way. The production hired Inuit from many communities and had trainees in every department, bringing them new and transferable skills, all while the story itself celebrates Inuit youth as the strong, resilient, capable people they are.

The film is still playing at the Astro Theatre today and I encourage all members to watch it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung,

Ms. Nakashuk.

# Member's Statement 345 – 5(2): Alcohol Awareness in Pangnirtung

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues, and I say "good afternoon" to the residents of Pangnirtung.

I want to speak to an issue I originally brought up last year during the period hardships were being experienced by the community of Pangnirtung. We faced stressful situations, much like my colleague alluded to about suicides.

It also relates to difficulties communities face, which I have referenced in the past, regarding the fact that Pangnirtung is a "dry" community. This law was passed via a plebiscite whereby the residents wanted a "dry" community. Nonetheless, we still see cases that are problematic, all caused by alcohol abuse. It is very noticeable within one's community when it occurs.

Many residents of Pangnirtung have deliberated on ways to resolve this challenge through many meetings held in the last year. The Hamlet of Pangnirtung, government employees responsible for mental health, nurses, and the Pujualussait Society, who deals with healing in Pangnirtung, have met to try to resolve this matter collaboratively. To date a number of events have been scheduled to deal with this matter, and I am quite proud of this initiative.

For the first time they held a local phone-in show to discuss the impacts of alcohol abuse on the body, the mind, as well as lives. Many Inuit have gone on record saying we shouldn't just accept substances that can become addictions, such as alcohol, cannabis, and medications. As Inuit we have to reclaim control over our own lives.

# >>Applause

The residents of Pangnirtung are very appreciative for the support. I would like to thank the employees who work at the Department of Finance and the (interpretation ends) liquor commission's Let's Be Aware (interpretation) campaign that provides materials and posters on the impacts of alcohol on one's life. Also, government employees in Pangnirtung....

I apologize. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed with your statement, Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Ms. Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In Pangnirtung some of us are affected deeply by this issue. We do not want to see our siblings and relatives being defeated by this. I apologize.

We try very hard in Pangnirtung when it comes to the issue of alcohol. There are plans being put together to hold public meetings. There are many people who are trying to quit drinking alcohol. People who want to improve their lives need to be recognized. We should provide more opportunities for (interpretation ends) fathers and sons. (interpretation) Pujualussait is working

## on that.

I would like to recognize the people of Pangnirtung for acknowledging this issue. They have held public meetings for residents on issues that the government does not deal with. I would like to recognize people in the community of Pangnirtung who are tired of being beaten by this. I rose to show my recognition of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Hon. David Joanasie.

# Member's Statement 346 – 5(2): Cape Dorset's New Power Plant

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because during our winter session I spoke about the Qulliq Energy Corporation and said that we would be opening a new power plant in Cape Dorset at the beginning of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation because we were able to go to Cape Dorset last Friday. I also thank those who attended: vicechair Simeonie Akpalialuk, President of the Qulliq Energy Cooperation Bruno Pereira, and vice-president Jamie Flaherty.

The people of Cape Dorset were also involved at the opening. We were

prepared to go there during our winter session, but we were unable to make it into the community due to poor weather. We had a great ceremony this past Friday. I would like to thank Qulliq and everyone in Cape Dorset who came to the opening. We know that long into the future, the descendants and future generations will benefit from this power plant in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik.

# Member's Statement 347 – 5(2): 2019 Toonik Tyme Organizers

# Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also here in Iqaluit all of us face many challenges. Last month we held our annual spring celebration where we had a very successful Toonik Tyme event. We thank the volunteers involved with 123Go! at Toonik Tyme. Matthew and Pitseolak Alainga, following in their late father's footsteps, have been very active, as has Adamee Itorcheak. I wanted to rise to thank the 123Go! organizing committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

# Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I previously mentioned in my member's statement, I would like to recognize Ms. Stacey Aglok MacDonald, who is not only a producer in the film, *The Grizzlies*, but she is also from Kugluktuk. She was also a student of the high school just before The Grizzlies team was formed.

Another aspect that I would like to recognize Ms. Aglok MacDonald for is her role in the Inuktitut comedy series *Qanurli*, where she was a writer, producer, and director. Stacey, welcome to your Assembly.

### >>Applause

I would also like to recognize Ms. Alethea Arnaquq-Baril. Alethea was born and raised here in Iqaluit, and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril began her film career as producer in the documentary *James Houston: The Most Interesting Group of People You'll Ever Meet*, and as a co-producer of *The Experimental Eskimos*. Althea directed her first fulllength film, *Tunniit: Retracing the Lines of Inuit Tattoos* in 2010, which was a personal documentary about her journey to explore the lost tradition of Inuit facial tattoos.

Alethea was named by the Toronto International Film Festival as one of Canada's most important women filmmakers in 2017.

I thank you both for everything that you guys have done. Once again, Alethea, welcome to your Assembly.

## >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please feel welcome to your Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I recognized the two pages from my community, but today I would like to recognize their chaperone who is sitting behind me today.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned her name on many occasions in this House on her successes over the years in the sport of badminton, where she served on not only Sanikiluaq's badminton team but on Team Nunavut. I ask members to please join me in welcoming Mina Mannuk to the gallery. Thank you.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak**: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I'm very honoured to recognize two of the producers of the amazing movie, *The Grizzlies*, which is based on a true story from Kugluktuk. Stacey Aglok MacDonald is from my hometown of Kugluktuk and Alethea Arnaquq-Baril is from Iqaluit. I get all emotional because I was part of the Grizzlies and I can't thank you enough for putting it out there.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that our Government of Nunavut will consider showing *The Grizzlies* movie to all of our high schools across Nunavut, not because it's a powerful story but because it shows what our home-grown and talented Nunavummiut like Stacey and Alethea can do with the right amount of drive and determination. Welcome to the Assembly.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): How uplifting that is. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The person I wish to recognize isn't sitting there anymore, but I wanted to recognize him as we take pride in our pages that provide services to members during our sittings. I want to recognize a young page who is my grandson. His name is Wayne Terrence Seetee Quassa. I wanted to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker**: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) For all visitors who came to watch and listen to the proceedings in the Assembly, I want to welcome you to the House.

(interpretation ends) Continuing on with our agenda. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

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

### Question 465 – 5(2): Immunizations for School Children

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure my colleagues would have heard the news, there have been some frightening outbreaks of communicable diseases across Canada, including measles, which can be prevented through immunization. Can the minister provide an update on what changes, if any, have been made to Nunavut's immunization requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As most people in Canada have been immunized against the measles, it's surprising that it has reared its ugly head again. We will continue to follow the best practices with the immunization of all of our population, and I do strongly encourage anyone who is watching, anyone who has family members, to make sure that you check your immunization schedule to make sure that you have participated.

Specifically with the member's question, I'm not aware of any changes. We will continue with our immunization program as it has been going. Thank you.

**Speaker**: Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both the province of Ontario and the province of New Brunswick have mandatory immunization requirements for children in the school system. When we last met in February, the minister indicated that he or his department officials would be working with their counterparts in the Department of Education with respect to the mandatory immunization for children attending school.

Can the minister clearly describe what steps have been taken to address the issue of mandatory immunization for Nunavut school children to prevent the spread and outbreak of such communicable diseases as measles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With children, as they go into the school system, there are conditions where they have to be met when they check with the.... The term escapes me, but when they are preparing to go into kindergarten, there is an assessment and testing that is done at that point.

I believe the line of questioning that the member is referring to is more directed at the daycare system, if I recall the line of questioning properly. There are not negotiations because we all recognize the need for it, but to make sure that we're following along with human rights and other activities to make sure that immunizations are for one, available, but at the same time to make sure that we are following the letter of the law to make sure that when we mandate something, we're not infringing upon people's human rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just reading back of the *Blues* that we had between us. I think it's mandatory for daycares, but it isn't mandatory in Nunavut for school children and that is what I'm concerned about.

Mr. Speaker, I note that Nunavut's recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule, which is published on the Department of Health's website, includes over 10 different vaccines which can be given to Nunavut children from birth until they are in grade 9, and I'm very pleased that we have such prevention protocols in place.

Can the minister confirm that his department has been working with the public health workers across Nunavut to ensure that all of our children have their up-to-date immunizations and, if they don't, that catch-up immunization programs have been initiated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. It's a very good one in the fact that as we have transitioned [to an] electronic health record system from a paper-based record system, this is something that we have recognized to make sure that the follow-up on the immunization schedule is very important and that it is adhered to.

It is an ongoing process where we are working with the community health centres to track people's and their children's immunization schedules. It is an ongoing effort right now that we are working with our chief medical officer of public health to make sure that immunizations are followed according to the registry. Thank you.

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

# Question 466 – 5(2): Decreasing Funding for Mine Training

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) In my member's statement I used the word "pathetic" and I stand by that word. I am very frustrated by the lack of action on the part of our government in terms of getting our residents employed within the mining sector. I'm sure the Minister of Economic Development would agree with me that we do need more for Nunavummiut working in mining.

The industry is on an upswing across our territory, but as indicated by the response to written question from the Department of Economic Development, the department's spending on mine training is on a downswing. That's a hard thing to understand. You have an industry that's taking off and we have a government that's spending less on getting people employed in that sector. Over the past three years, I'll just refer to this response to written question: \$657,000 in 2016-17, \$355,000 on mine training in 2017-18, and \$282,000 in 2018-19.

Can the minister please explain why the department is not ramping up their

spending in the area of mine training? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. (interpretation ends) For the money that is dedicated to mine training that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has in control does seem to be that it's going on a downturn, but there are a number of other agencies, including the mining companies, that have agreements with the Inuit organizations that deal with their mine training also. Overall I don't think there has been necessarily a downturn in the training.

What has happened, and it is continuing to do, and I'm very happy with the progress that my department along with some of my colleagues from Family Services and Arctic College in terms of how do we go to the next level. I think those are the discussions that we have been having as a government is how we can make this into an institution so that all the monies that are geared towards mine training are identified and used so we can benefit as many Nunavummiut as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The minister did indicate that there is a downturn in the amount of spending in this area. For the current fiscal year and years to come, will the Department of Economic Development be investing significantly more in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this point we do have a budget process that we go through and we tend to go through it on an annual basis and bring it to this House. That's always ongoing in terms of where do we find investments and go forward.

I think, for this year, a lot of good progress has taken place where at least three of the government departments and agencies have looked and said, "Okay, we know we have this amount of money and we need to better coordinate or figure out how to expend this in a way that's going to benefit more," and have discussions with the mining companies and Inuit organizations and any other stakeholders, such as the mining associations, in terms of how can we leverage more on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a response from the minister, but I would like to thank him anyway. (interpretation ends) I was asking about whether there would be a significant improvement, and I will note that I have advocated during the budgeting process for more investment in this area, but I can't compel the government to spend money. I do feel it would be a very smart investment in terms of the future of Nunavut.

My last question is regarding page 3 of the response to written question with regard to the relationship between ED&T and Nunavut Arctic College. The response to this question is: "The department has initiated discussion with NAC to participate as a new Stakeholder going forward for students interested in pursuing further education and training in the resource sector." This indicates to me that there hasn't been a real working relationship with the college when it comes to mine training to date for the department. Can the minister indicate if I'm correct or not? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There has been ongoing work related to this. When it came to mine training, there were attempts to try it as a society, which then became the training agency. We're trying different ways. What this paragraph under question 4 is looking at is whether Nunavut Arctic College can become that agency to do the actual training. In the past it has been done by other agencies or other organizations or even some of them at the hamlet level. Those trainings have been done.

The response to the written question I provided is the initial discussion is whether Arctic College would be the best fit in terms of doing the formal training when it comes to mine training. Thank you for allowing me to clarify that with your written question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

# Question 467 – 5(2): Support for Community Initiatives

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking in English as I was also taught to speak English.

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

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the minister's statement regarding her department's support for a damp shelter in Iqaluit. I noted that it was a local community group which started this initiative, and then the department stepped in to provide a building, funding, and resources.

Can the minister clarify how her department made the decision to support this Iqaluit-based initiative? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minster of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

# Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. Last year we presented this report on the founding of the damp shelter that would offer shelter to people under the influence of alcohol. (interpretation ends) That is what really started this process of having a damp shelter, to have our patients at the hospital be safe. There was a gap in the system. Our shelters are not what are considered "damp," so we saw a need in the community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that Iqaluit is not the only community which faces issues of homelessness, substance abuse, and the need for a safe, warm shelter. These are issues facing other communities, both big and small. They are all facing the dire situation. We all know that it is important that our government work with all communities, not just Iqaluit, to find innovative solutions for addressing these issues.

Can the minister clarify what steps her department has taken to provide buildings, funding, resources, or other support for initiatives to address homelessness in the other communities and specifically in the community of Igloolik? What is being done to assist communities outside of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

# Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that. The facility you're asking about is based here in Iqaluit, but I can say that the people who utilize the damp shelter are from Iqaluit, Sanikiluaq, (interpretation ends) Hall Beach, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, and Cape Dorset. (interpretation) It is utilized by people from all Nunavut communities, so it is not only providing shelter to people from Iqaluit.

Again, I'm very pleased that the community of Pangnirtung is starting their own shelter, much like residents did here in Iqaluit, and we are able to proceed to the next stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All too often it appears that the community of Iqaluit gets so much support that the needs and challenges of Nunavut's other communities are left by the side of the trail.

I do recognize that small pockets of government funding are available to community groups who, on top of all the work that they do to help others, are required to prepare and submit proposals, hoping to get some support from the government.

Will the minister commit to taking the proactive step of reaching out to the communities outside of Iqaluit which desperately need shelters for the homeless and provide them with similar levels of support as her department has provided for Iqaluit? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

# Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you. At times I wonder what types of questions I will be asked and I worry sometimes. However, when members ask questions on issues, I take pleasure in that as we are all committed to improving the quality of life by resolving these issues that impact our lives.

Just last year we held a meeting in Rankin Inlet through the (interpretation ends) Poverty Reduction (interpretation) division on the factors therein. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to our next roundtable because each community was represented last year. All those who participated were to go back to their community and take stock of what's needed in the community and what potential infrastructure exists so we can refurbish.

Cambridge Bay is a great example. I think people are going to get sick of me using that because they took what they know, you understand your community and what your needs are, and they took stock of what's under-utilized. Those are the kinds of partnerships that I hope to continue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Question 468 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

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

As the minister is aware, the minimum wage in Nunavut is prescribed in the *Labour Standards Act*. It currently stands at \$13.00 an hour and has not been increased since April 2016, which is over three years ago. Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue during the recent winter sitting, the minister told the House that the department would "hopefully" have something to present to cabinet by the spring on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, spring is here and summer is just around the corner. When will the government approve an increase to the minimum wage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### >>Applause

**Speaker**: Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question. Yes, we are still preparing the details on a proposed submission, and during this spring sitting we have several questions we want to consult with Nunavummiut on related to an increase, then the minister will review the submission and provide a decision. It is still being prepared, but the work is ongoing. I will inform my ministerial colleague as she is committed to this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your first supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Consulting with the communities could take months and minimum wage hasn't been increased in a long time. I think they should put it as a priority.

Although Nunavut has the highest cost of living in the country, our minimum wage has fallen behind those of several other jurisdictions. When I raised this issue during our recent winter sitting, the minister agreed with my position that Nunavut should have the highest minimum wage in the country. Can the minister confirm what rate the new minimum wage will be set at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has not, in terms of the actual amount, what the actual rate is going to be, but from the briefings that I got related to this, it is still an ambition that Nunavut should be the highest for our country. However, as I stated, the department is going to do some online surveys which will help the government in terms of making that decision. At this point there is no government decision in terms of what the rate is going to be or even what we're proposing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can inform us today when he expects to have this review complete and when an announcement will be made on the changes to the minimum wage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our current minister, who is absent right now, is still pursuing this and I would respect her of having this brought forward to cabinet. We are waiting for her in terms of a decision on this. When this comes, as cabinet we will help make that decision, but at this point I don't have a firm timeline nor do I want to commit. As the Speaker stated, I am acting, so in terms of a decision like this, I think the minister will be in a good position to make that decision. I thank the member for continually raising this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

# Question 469 – 5(2): Solid Waste Management

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, I asked him a number of questions during our recent winter sitting about the important issue of solid waste management. Mr. Speaker, at that time I asked him about the status of the solid waste management feasibility study for Gjoa Haven that his department had commissioned in the summer of 2018. The timeline for this study indicated that the final report would be completed in January 2019.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm if the report has been completed and provided to the Municipality of Gjoa Haven for review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak. Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. What you're saying is true, that there is a study on the solid waste site in Gjoa Haven right now. Once the study is completed, we do another study to ensure that nothing was missed. Once the study is done, we review the report to make sure nothing was missed. Once that is completed, the community representatives will be met with to explain the next steps following the study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

**Mr. Akoak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past year the Department of Community and Government Services has commissioned a number of studies concerning solid waste management in a number of different communities. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the minister for undertaking this work. However, as the minister also heard yesterday from my colleague from Hudson Bay, the results of these studies are not always being shared with Members of the Legislative Assembly and municipalities in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to tabling a report in the Legislative Assembly before the end of our current spring sitting that provides a summary of the status of these studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, these studies and reviews of solid waste sites in all of Nunavut are being worked on and they cannot all be done at the same time. They are being done and the things that are being discovered are reviewed. We also look to see what else should be included and what has been included, and how it should be dealt with following what has been discovered through the studies. All of these need to be compiled and that is being worked on right now.

There are a lot of documents, so I don't know if I can present it before the end of this spring session. It has to be translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun as well. I'm not looking for excuses not to table it, but these are actual things that have to be done regarding anything that is found. We have to meet with the hamlets and tell them what we found and what else needs to be done. I would have no trouble presenting them to my colleagues here, but I know we will not be able to table them this spring session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the recent winter sitting, I asked the minister to provide the House with an estimate of what it would cost to modernize the solid waste management facilities in all of our communities. Mr. Speaker, in his reply to me, he indicated that the department was waiting for the feasibility studies to be completed. As was noted yesterday, the capital city recently received millions of dollars in funding to modernize its facilities. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update us today on the approximate cost of addressing this issue for Nunavut's other 24 communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your question, but I think you kind of answered it yourself in that once all the feasibilities studies are done on all the waste management sites across Nunavut will we only then know how much it's going to cost to fix them all and put them into standards.

The City of Iqaluit has their own contribution agreement with the federal government on that funding, so it's separate from us, the other communities. Being a tax-based community, they do that separately from us.

To answer the question of how much is it going to cost, as you said, once we have all those communities' studies done and reviewed them with the municipalities, and we do the checks and balances to make sure that all of the scenarios are covered and costs associated with those are tallied, only then will we be able to come up with a final figure of how much it's going to cost to fix the solid waste facilities across Nunavut.

We are on that venture, we are walking that path, and I hope sooner than later that we will begin, if not to all of them, at least most of them, to start putting prices on them and start acting on those results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

# Question 470 – 5(2): Government of Nunavut-Agnico Eagle Mines Memorandum of Understanding

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

My question concerns issues that I first raised six months ago in the Legislative Assembly during the fall sitting regarding the memorandum of understanding that was signed in 2017 between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines in Tasirjuaq (Meliadine Lake).

As the minister is aware, the memorandum of understanding sets out a number of priority areas regarding cooperation between the two parties, including the issue of housing. (interpretation ends) When I asked about this subject six months ago, I was told that some discussions between the government and Agnico Eagle had taken place.

Can the minister update the House today on what specific actions, I'm talking about actions, have been agreed to between the two parties in the area of housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that fine question. Yes, this is detailed in the memorandum of understanding we signed with Agnico Eagle Mines and we anticipate progress over this spring where we will table the agreement in the House as to what we plan to undertake here with the company.

Yes, we have made some requests to the company outlining the work with them for housing, but nothing has been settled yet and we're continuing our discussions with the company, especially at the executive level with the president over this winter. I discussed what actions the parties need to take and our officials are working on the details, but to date I still haven't been consulted as to the type of agreement and the actions to be taken. Nothing has been presented to me yet about this agreement on the housing matter, so I can't really provide any details at this time to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines also identifies training as a priority area for cooperation. Mines have a (interpretation ends) lifespan. (interpretation) They have a start date and an end date. It's too late now if we are going to wait for something like that. As the minister will appreciate, many of my constituents in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet are eager to undertake training so that they can successfully take on skilled jobs at the mines. Can the minister update the House today on what specific actions have been agreed to between the two parties in the area of training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. Yes, about the training that I elaborated on earlier, if someone wants to deliver a course, they are welcome to apply with the government.

In 2017-18, currently in the Kitikmeot region, there were 11 people taking the driller's assistant training. There are different courses delivered. In the Kivalliq, the Hamlet of Arviat is preparing a pre-employment course and they currently have 30 students enrolled. Of the 140 applicants for this course, 29 students successfully passed and some are already in job placements at (interpretation ends) Meadowbank. (interpretation) Also, for the Baffin region, we had 247 students who were enrolled in literacy training through the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. These are just some of the courses we have approved that are listed in my briefing note.

With respect to the actual training courses listed, they continue to change. For example, under this new agreement we included a review phase. Additionally, there is an agreement with the (interpretation ends) Kivalliq Inuit Association (interpretation) which also has a detailed training component. I cannot speak to that because they are independent and it is outside the government purview. However, I can only speak to the memorandum of understanding between the mining company and this government, and I plan to table it in the House before the end of our sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that I will speak in English. First of all, I forgot to say "good day" to the people of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Further, I thank John Quasa Tinashlu for preparing fish for me.

This is my final question. (interpretation ends) The memorandum of understanding between the Government of Nunavut and Agnico Eagle Mines was signed on September 20, 2017, just two years ago. The agreement provides for an oversight committee to identify priorities and consider implementation plans to actually implement the plans. Can the minister assure the House that he will be tabling the actual implementation of the memorandum of understanding before the end of our current sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am committing that we will be tabling the memorandum of understanding between Agnico Eagle Mines and our government. At this point I cannot commit in terms of what the oversight committee has reported to date. I need to look at that and I need to go through that before I can make such commitments. What I have committed and I hope that I will do it is putting that overarching MOU. As you mentioned, there is a steering committee on oversight that is at a working level that is specifically in that memorandum of understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

# Question 471 – 5(2): Ilisaqsivik and Family Services

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

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in my member's statement, counselling services are provided in the event of a sudden death when residents want assistance from counsellors from the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River. They provide a lot of help. Also, we know that the Department of Family Services has counsellors probably in every community. I'm not sure if it includes every community, but there are social workers who work for the government in the communities.

I met with people who came to Qikiqtarjuaq to provide assistance when there was a sudden death. The counsellors from Ilisaqsivik reported on what they do. They are not able to work with social workers when they're in the communities even though they deal with the same issues. The government's social workers should be working with Ilisaqsivik counsellors.

Can the minister clarify how close the Ilisaqsivik people work together with government social workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

# Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. When we are all undergoing stressful situations, it's no wonder we require assistance. Nonetheless, I haven't heard an organization state that they won't be involved in this initiative. It would be unfortunate if what we hear is truthful. I will have this looked into at my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not told directly that social workers would not be involved, but when Ilisaqsivik staff go to the communities, the government social workers are never available and they aren't aware that the counsellors are going to the community and sometimes they're not even in the community.

Do Ilisaqsivik staff and social workers not work together? When Ilisaqsivik staff are going to provide counselling in other communities, don't the social workers check with Ilisaqsivik to see if they need help? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

#### Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When there is trauma in a community, Family Services is not the only department that coordinates; there are several departments. Obviously there has to be better communication [from] our department because I do believe Quality of Life does a lot of coordination of these kinds of activities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for her response. This is serious. When there is a sudden death, everybody is affected even if it happens in faraway communities. We are all affected. With that being the case, we all want to provide help to the government as regular MLAs, and other organizations want to provide help with how we can lessen the burden.

We have to work together on what is the best avenue. We should collaborate as a government with Ilisaqsivik counsellors to provide help. They task people from other communities who don't work for Ilisaqsivik to provide help, people who are more than capable of counselling. Whether they are young people or elders, they can provide counselling.

Can the minister indicate whether the Ilisaqsivik staff and government social workers are going to work more closely together in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

#### Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly agree. All of us, including myself, have been affected and I think that this is well put together. Let us keep reminding our staff that we have to work together.

If an emergency situation arises in a small community, I will ensure that we

will be informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

# Question 472 – 5(2): Foster Care

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, when a child is taken into foster care, a social worker manages the process to ensure that they are placed with the extended family or with a foster family. Can the minister clarify what process is followed to ensure that the foster parents and social workers have the same understanding of the process and expectations when they take a foster child into care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

#### Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. I want to start off by thanking people who provide care to children because they provide an invaluable service to our department.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are several avenues when it comes to foster parents. We have, yes, the extended family members who sometimes usually are for immediate risk. At that point it is departmental records checks and safety checks from home studies and a brief visit of the home. This is what happens for immediate high risk. Then of course, if it is more than 72 hours, there is much more, that is, for the safety of the child. A criminal record check, including a vulnerable sectors check, foster parents have to go through an application process, foster home care agreements are signed, oath of confidentiality, and of course a home study. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She happened to answer the next question I was going to ask, so I thank her for that answer. She also responded to my first question. I will ask my second question as a supplementary question now.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am aware of at least two foster families in the constituency of Netsilik who have requested additional support in providing the care they have been asked to give.

Mr. Speaker, when a child is put to foster care, a government purchase order is made available to provide for the child's needs. It is my understanding that the foster parents are entitled to \$50 a day for providing foster care, which would come to \$250 for a week. If the foster parent does not have a job and has other children to care for, this \$250 does not go very far, but when the social worker takes money out of foster care payments to purchase supplies for the child instead, it does not leave foster parents with very much at all.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the foster parenting process to allocate

better incentives and better support to foster parents who provide much-needed care for children in need? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

### Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for your question. It's clearly not enough. (interpretation ends) During our last sitting it was recognized that we have increased income support but did not do so with foster parenting. Part of the strategic plan I plan to do that I promised last sitting to increase foster parenting is to work on increasing it for the next fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

### Question 473 – 5(2): New School Space for Kugluktuk

**Ms. Kamingoak**: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, the minister should be well aware of the high utilization rates at the Kugluktuk High School because it has been at well over 100 percent utilization for several years now. The lack of adequate school space is an issue of growing concern.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to building new school infrastructure in Kugluktuk? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. **Speaker**: Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Koana, MLA Kamingoak, for her question. Mr. Speaker, my department proposed \$33 million in our capital budget for 2020-21 and along with that we did submit five different projects for preplanning consideration for the 2020-21 fiscal year, and the Kugluktuk High School addition was one of them, but at this point three projects have been waiting for completion of business cases out of those. We're trying to move forward on the preplanning of the five projects that we're working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Koana, Mr. Speaker. In the upcoming school year, the utilization rate at the Kugluktuk High School will be at 115 percent. The government has indicated that once the school utilization rate exceeds 85 percent, then the need for additional school space will be addressed in the capital planning process. Despite Kugluktuk's high school utilization rates being consistently over 100 percent, it appears that the department's way of addressing the situation is to relocate one of the grade 6 classes to the elementary school. This does not seem like effective capital planning.

Can the minister explain how his department's policy of moving classes of students from school to school is used to address overcrowding issues? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The school utilization we factor in depends on the teaching space at the school and looking at the space and the number of students that are enrolled in that school.

In different schools, let's say for example, in Kugluktuk there are two schools and one school has a higher utilization rate, which we try to work with the school teams in both to see if the catchment areas and maybe grade levels can be moved in between schools to alleviate the overcrowding in one of the schools. These are temporary measures that we try to accommodate.

Our capital planning process is.... We always need more given that we have 44 schools right now and we want to continue to expand and build new schools where needed. It's an ongoing, regular annual cycle that we take into account the condition of the schools as well as how much it's being utilized given the space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak**: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister elaborated on this a bit, but I'm going to ask again. Mr. Speaker, the need for additional school infrastructure in Kugluktuk has been very clear for some time and should not be ignored. Will the minister commit to including new school infrastructure for Kugluktuk in his department's next capital plan? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital planning process is set that we will deal with it in the fall. With the preplanning envelope through CGS, we try to send out at least a handful of different projects because we have so many schools to deal with that either need major renovations, either additions, or build a new school. Looking at all the needs across the territory, we will take into account the needs of Kugluktuk's school space and all the other communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

# Question 474 – 5(2): Staff Condominium Program

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with 14 seconds to spare.

#### >>Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and my questions are regarding the staff condo program.

I would like to begin by thanking the minister for taking this initiative because I believe that homeownership is one aspect which will alleviate our housing shortage and reduce our reliance on public and staff housing.

Mr. Speaker, it has been quite some time since the government has given an update on the GN's staff condo program. I would like to ask the minister today if he would be kind enough to give us an update on status of those 60 condominium units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my constituents in Coral Harbour and Naujaat.

I feel for you, Member for Pangnirtung. When you lose a relative suddenly because of alcohol, I urge you to keep talking about it.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. The current update for the 60 units that have been bought.... By the way, Mr. Speaker, I'm a strong proponent of the homeownership program and we expect to have a great report by this fall sitting on the review of the homeownership program. We hope to have the 60 units occupied by the end of October. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to first of all thank the minister for his response. I really do hope that the commitment to tabling that homeownership review will be completed and accomplished by the fall sitting.

I would like to follow up with a supplementary question by asking: of those 60 units, today how many are sitting vacant? What I would like to ask is: how many have been allocated and how many have actually been sold? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently there are 13 units that are occupied in buildings 5196 and 5198 on the Plateau. The condominium corporation number has been issued, which will allow all buyers of units in buildings 5196 and 5198 to finalize their transactions on or before June 30.

There were some issues with shifting on some of our buildings, and I understand by next month there will be a tender issued and by the end of the month or by the end of October we hope to have everything settled and all the units being moved into by our employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that 13 of the units are being occupied and that the closing date is set for June 30. I'm sure that all of the applicants are delighted to hear that.

I would like to ask if the government has any plans to expand the eligibility criteria to allow non-GN staff to apply to purchase these condominium units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again, I said earlier that we are doing a comprehensive review on the homeownership program and by the fall sitting we will have a good package to give to the floor here.

Recently I was up in Cambridge Bay and I thought, what a great place to have another condo program with all the activity going on up there with the CHARS station. I think there's a great opportunity to build something up there to alleviate the severe chronic housing shortages that we have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Oral question period is now over. Next item on my list, 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. Minister Akeeagok.

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

# Tabled Document 163 – 5(2): 2018 Report on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am tabling today the 2018 *Report* on the Administration of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Tabling of Documents. Mr. Main.

# Tabled Document 164 – 5(2): 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation from the Regular Members' Caucus to the Executive Council of Nunavut

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus, I am very pleased to table today, in all official languages, the first-ever letter of expectation to the Premier of Nunavut.

As you will recall, when all Members of the Legislative Assembly held our retreat in Pond Inlet following the 2017 general election, we made the decision not to undertake a formal mid-term review of the Executive Council. As we now approach the midpoint of our term of office, the letter of expectation that the Regular Members' Caucus has presented to the Premier articulates our expectations for all cabinet ministers and makes it clear that their performance will be evaluated on an ongoing basis for the remainder of the life of this Assembly.

I am very confident that the Premier and his colleagues will review this document with care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# >>Applause

**Speaker**: Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

## Item 17: First Reading of Bills

# Bill 24 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019 – First Reading

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 24, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

# Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – First Reading

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

# Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act – First Reading

## Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Arviat South, Joe Savikataaq, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 22 and 23 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:38 and Committee resumed at 16:05

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order, please. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 22 and 23. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with the review of Bill 22 and associated budget, followed by the review of Bill 23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 22?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020 – Consideration in Committee **Chairman**: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: With the committee's indulgence, yes.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the minister's officials go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, if you could please introduce your officials and then continue on into your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To your right, we have Assistant Deputy Minister Dan Carlson, and to your left, Deputy Minister Jeff Chown.

I would like to thank the Chair and committee members, and all members. I appear before you today to present Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act,* 2019-2020, No. 1. Through this bill, the government is seeking to increase its overall operations and maintenance appropriation by \$3.6 million in 2019-2020.

Mr. Chairman, we will use these new funds to create a new program, the Nunavut Carbon Rebate. Before taking questions, I would like to take a few minutes to explain why we want to create this program and how it will work.

As you all know, climate change is a serious global concern. Human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels like gas and diesel, is causing our planet to overheat. The Arctic experiences this change faster than elsewhere on the planet.

In 2017 the Government of Nunavut signed on to the Pan-Canadian Framework, a national agreement among provinces, territories, and the federal government that talks about the importance of reducing fossil fuel use. One way to do this is through carbon pricing, making the cost of greenhouse gases slightly more expensive so that individuals and businesses have a reason to reduce their use.

The Government of Nunavut has always agreed with the importance of fighting climate change but has also argued that carbon pricing will not be as effective in the north because of the unique challenges we face. We also argued that our households and industry, especially mining, have few alternatives to burning fuel.

The Government of Canada listened to our arguments and last year agreed to exempt the fuel the Qulliq Energy Corporation uses to generate electricity as well as aviation fuel from the carbon price. The federal government has also put in place special calculations for the mining sector, which means they will pay significantly less than the full amount.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, with these exemptions in place, the federal government will begin charging a carbon price here in Nunavut on July 1, 2019. As a result, the price of gas, diesel, and home heating fuel that our Petroleum Products Division sells will increase by about 5 cents per litre.

For vehicle owners, each tank of gas will cost another few dollars to fill up at the pump. Filling a five-gallon jerry can will cost an extra 95 cents. For those who own their own homes, the price of home heating fuel will increase based on their use.

Because of the exemptions we argued for, the price of electricity will not increase. The prices of other goods and services should not increase noticeably because aviation is exempt.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, the point of the federal government's carbon price is to get Canadians thinking about ways to reduce their fuel use and to encourage them to make decisions over time that will lead to lower emissions.

We also want these adjustments to happen here in Nunavut. However, we know that Nunavummiut do not face the same options as southern Canadians. Because our options are limited, it will be harder for us to change our habits. It will take longer for our economy to adjust. Because of this, our government intends to launch a new Nunavut Carbon Rebate.

Through this program, our Petroleum Products Division will only pass along half the federal carbon tax to Nunavummiut. This means that Nunavummiut will only directly pay an extra 2.5 cents per litre this July, not the full 5 cents per litre. Mr. Chairman and colleagues, the Department of Finance, working closely with the PPD behind the scenes, will pay the other half using this new appropriation we are seeking through Bill 22. In some ways, our plan is similar to the Nunavut Electrical Subsidy Program, where the Department of Finance already works with the Qulliq Energy Corporation to subsidize the price of electricity for households and businesses.

Through the Nunavut Carbon Rebate, our government will immediately reduce the impact of the federal carbon price on our households and businesses at the pump. At the same time we want to encourage Nunavummiut to do what they can to reduce their emissions and so are not rebating the full amount. Instead, our government intends to use the carbon revenues we do not immediately give back through this rebate to fund other important initiatives.

Most significantly, I am proposing to make a number of changes to our *Income Tax Act* separately through Bill 26, which I just read for the first time a short time ago. We will discuss these proposals at another time.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Carbon Rebate is simple but significant. We expect this will cost our government about \$3.6 million in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, but before we can offer this program, we require this Assembly's approval.

As the federal carbon tax increases steadily over the next few years, our rebate will also increase so that Nunavummiut only pay half the full amount. This means the cost of this program will also increase steadily. In total we expect this program will cost nearly \$36 million over this and the next three fiscal years. This is significant.

Mr. Chairman, our goal is to help slow the impact of the federal carbon tax on Nunavummiut, not to subsidize it entirely or permanently. Starting in 2023-24, we will slowly reduce the amount of our rebate over several years. In effect, Nunavummiut will face the same overall adjustment as other Canadians to the federal carbon tax but over a period that is twice as long.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, through the Nunavut Carbon Rebate our government is trying to balance legitimate efforts to fight climate change while also trying to help Nunavummiut adjust to Canada's carbon tax, recognizing we have fewer opportunities.

Mr. Chairman and colleagues, this concludes my opening comments and I would be pleased to take any questions. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I will ask members to go to page 4 on Bill 22 and I'll open the floor for any general comments, if anybody has. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate this chance. The issue of carbon tax may be positive, but it will affect many things and cause some increases for fuel and diesel. Business owners and homeowners will be affected by this. The \$3.6 million that was mentioned will definitely assist hunters and those who need to purchase fuel. I just wanted to mention that I support the passage of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are there any more general comments? If not, again, we are on page 4 of Bill 22, *Supplementary Appropriation, (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020.* Finance. Not Previously Authorized. \$3,600,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister when this new (interpretation ends) carbon program (interpretation ends) that we're talking about is going to be introduced. When is the implementation date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The implementation date will be the same as the implementation of the carbon tax, July 1. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. You mentioned in your comments here there are exemptions for power generation as well as aviation fuel, but it's my understanding that there's some lack of clarity around the aviation fuel exemption. If the minister could provide some information in terms of the current situation because the airlines as I understand, do fuel up from their southern bases, let's say, Ottawa or Winnipeg or wherever. I'm interested to hear whether that exemption will apply across the board for our northern airlines. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that request for clarification. I just recently had it clarified to myself after our discussions this morning. The way it's understood is that any aviation fuel that's used to fly to Nunavut, within Nunavut, or flying outside of Nunavut to our entry points, let's say for example, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg; Yellowknife, I guess, it would flow to first before Alberta; are exempt also from the aviation carbon tax. Anything that's coming to or from or within Nunavut is exempt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The department is proposing to cover half the cost of the carbon tax, but the other half will still be borne by Nunavummiut. Does the department have plans to communicate the fact that the Nunavut government did not create the carbon tax; it's something that's being imposed on us from the federal level? Does the department have any plans to communicate that to our residents? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that question from the member. It's very important to

make sure that we communicate clearly to all of our residents on how we're going to be dealing with the carbon tax, what the root of it is, and what the purpose of it is as well as I think it is an important message.

There is a communications strategy that's ready to go. Basically we do have to wait until these appropriations and any further programs are approved by this House before we can initiate, but we are ready to go with the communications plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a final question for clarity; you're calling this the Nunavut Carbon Rebate. If people see that word "rebate," they're going to think "Oh, it's income tax and maybe there's an application form on some website that I have to fill out." Just to clarify that this rebate program will be applied in a way that doesn't involve any paperwork for Nunavummiut, it's something that would be applied at the pump basically, and there's no application form or process or paperwork associated with that for the general public. That's my last question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate again the member raising that. Again, it's important for everyone listening out there. The only paperwork that will be initiated by this program is within the

PPD, the Department of Finance, and the CRA Canada. This is an immediate 2.5 cents off the top right at the pump. Nobody has to fill out any forms. We wanted a very simple process to be able to be able to put money or keep money in our residents' pockets. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the House.

I have a couple of questions. I don't think anybody likes any tax added to anything. We already, I think, have the highest costs of everything in Nunavut, and especially being a homeowner, I think this is going to especially add a lot of stress to the high bills that we have already.

You say there is a rebate for when we go and get gas and stuff at the pumps. Is the government going to give homeowners any rebates for the extra costs of the diesel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the immediate, at-the-pump rebate of the 2.5 cents per litre, we also have other measures in the bill that I just read for the first time a short while ago that members will be able to discuss on different tax incentives that will put money back in people's pockets or keep it in people's pockets. There are other initiatives that have no bearing on this program that will alleviate some of those pressures. Thank you. **Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you look at those other rebates that you talk about and you say we are going to discuss them here, just in general, will there be kind of like if you only make this amount or that amount, you can access it? There is a lot of that in the government already. If you want to access any rebate, you have to make usually quite a small income in order to be able to access any help. With this one, how are you going to be looking at this rebate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very important initiative. We want to make sure that we are covering all demographics. There is going to be an increased cost to everyone at some point. Some people are going to be impacted higher and typically those would be the higher income earners; homeowners, people who are making more money or spending more money and not subsidized. You know, you get somebody in a very low income that is in public housing, electricity is subsidized, their rent is subsidized, so they have less of an impact by the carbon tax.

We want to make sure we did it fairly so that all demographics, both low income and high income, will be, when you look at the bill that was first read just an hour ago or so, you will see that there are measures taken into place to accommodate both low-income and high-income earners. Thank you. **Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for explaining that. When we talk about homeowners, I'm a homeowner and there is no way I'm leaving a window open in the middle of winter because it's too hot. It costs so much to own a home here, yet the purpose of this tax is to try to make us more efficient, but as homeowners we are trying everything to be efficient already. We have light bulbs that are efficient. We turn down our heat really low in the middle of the night. We have bought a woodstove to try to help us with the heating of the house.

With this tax, the purpose is to try to reduce our use of fossil fuel. There's only so much reducing you can do when we have the kind of climate that we have here in Nunavut. I think and I would like to suggest that if you are going to be collecting this money and it will be coming back to the Government of Nunavut, things like subsidies on windmills or solar panels or something like that for homeowners that take this seriously. I know you're talking about income tax and that as well and that will be helpful, but I think, to make us even more efficient in how we heat our homes or provide the electrical and all of that, it would be good to have some of those kinds of incentives. I wonder where you stand on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been very open with everyone in the public as well as in this room that I'm very interested in hearing people's ideas on how to make sure that the money we're collecting through the federal government is allocated to the people who are impacted or people who are taking measures to reduce their dependence on fossil fuel. It sounds like your household has been practising some of the main, low-hanging fruit, I call it. Not everyone does, so I appreciate some of the ideas that you have put out there for people out in the public so that they can take steps to reduce their usage.

At the same time I'm very open to any ideas from anyone across the territory or anywhere on how we can work towards reducing our fossil fuel dependence on different programs. This is just the phase 1 of the \$20 per tonne of greenhouse gases that are being emitted and it will be increasing throughout the program. This is the first stage. We wanted to make sure that our residents who are going to be impacted first are thought of first. Going forward, we're open to any and all ideas on how to reimburse or to reallocate these revenues to additional programs. Going forward, that is definitely our plan. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for his response. I guess another big area that I find very expensive that I would hope that you would also look at while I have you here is to look at purchasing windows. Windows cost so much. I think it's really important that we have the right kind of windows in all of our homes because it's going to assist in the heating and retaining heat and using the sun and all of that. That's one area I would hope that you would be able to look at of helping people, when they buy windows, that you could maybe subsidize a certain part of it so that people are getting the kind of windows they really should be putting in their homes. That's just a suggestion.

My question is, though: when we talk about fuel for our homes, how much more...? We talk about gas and it's going to 5 cents more. Is that the same for all fuel across the board? Is it going to be 5 cents per litre more or are they all different? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give an example, there are differing amounts, from propane down to kerosene. When we're looking at home heating fuel, it's approximately 5.5 cents per litre that we're looking at. Again, we're looking at covering half of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you. My other question is: there's a phasing-out period and you mentioned it in your opening comments, but just for the public who is listening, can you just go over what the phasing-out period, the percentage, and from what year to what year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically in fiscal year 2023-24 we're going to start phasing out that 50 percent subsidy over a five-year period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I saw, I think it was a couple of weeks ago.... It could have been, but time flies, so in the news it was about some of the provinces are really standing up against the federal government. They don't want to have this, and I think Quebec was a big voice there that they don't want anything to do with this kind of carbon tax and were going to the courts.

That hasn't happened yet, I don't think, but let's say tomorrow they came out with ... . I guess we're not supposed to be hypothetical here, but I really am interested. If one or two provinces were able to win in the court, I don't know what kind of impact that would have across Canada, but what's your thinking on this? Do you think it would have a big impact here? Would we then maybe think twice before going forward or what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we're not looking at joining any of the legal battles that are ongoing with other jurisdictions. We want to make sure that one, our resources are allocated properly. We're following very closely the proceedings that are ongoing at that level.

That being said, typically what would happen in a case like that, and I can't speak to this example specifically because it's hypothetical, but typically what would happen is if one jurisdiction in Canada gets a benefit from the federal government, all jurisdictions get it. If something were to happen along those lines, it would default to us as well, typically. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk a little bit about your communications plan. I think it's vital that people understand what kind of impact this is going to have on them. I wonder, with July 1 being around the corner, why you haven't gone forward and gone to communities or met with people or used different ways of communicating what's going to happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have been very presumptive to go out with a communications plan before it was approved in the House here, and I would have been getting my knuckles rapped the other way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to welcome the minister and his officials. I want to clearly understand this issue I want to ask about regarding the 2.5 cent rebate from the 5 cent rate. What will the PPD do to ensure they don't lose any funds over this rebate if they are going to use that within Nunavut? I would like to understand how they will administer that, hence my question on the matter. Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sincerely appreciate that question. Just to make a very simple visualization, I guess, if I may, with the 5 cents on a litre of gasoline as an example, the PPD would be responsible for paying that 5 cents to the federal government. They charge the 2.5 cents at the pump and the Department of Finance, through this appropriation, provides the other 2.5 cents, submits it to the CRA on a quarterly basis, and then basically at the same time we get it back through the Department of Finance. That is what helps fund this program and any other programs that would be associated with the carbon tax. It is very simple: the PPD to the CRA and back to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not very familiar with numbers and it kind of floats around in my head. I'm having a hard time understanding it.

My second question is: would aviation fuel in Nunavut be exempt? I don't think it's going to really affect the airlines, including over in the NWT. That is how I understand it. Considering that and for charter services, I think it's going to use up a lot of money, especially when it comes to charter service because of any groups or companies flying by air. Perhaps the minister could clarify more on that area. That is my question, Mr. Chairman. I hope I am understandable. Thank you. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the aviation fuel exemption, it covers all aviation fuel, whether that be a personal pilot, commercial use, or any charter use. It wouldn't impact any of the pricing from aviation fuel. I hope that's clear. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Did you have any more questions, Mr. Qirngnuq? Go ahead, please.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be an additional cost of 95 cents for five gallons of fuel. Considering it, people with low incomes are going to pay more now. Our colleagues mention this and they are concerned about it. Have suggestions been made to the federal government on this for the near future? That's my last question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, the 95-cent example was used before the carbon rebate, so it would be half of that for a jerry can. It is not a dramatic increase. That being said, going forward, like I mentioned earlier, I am open and we are all open to any initiatives that people suggest on how to lessen the burden of the carbon tax on specific groups or societies or demographics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be good since I don't intend to ask a question. I want to provide my support for homeowners for the hardship they are experiencing with the high cost of heating oil, which is likely to increase again. I would like it to be considered for the near future since heating oil is so necessary to keep houses warm.

To say it in English, (interpretation ends) Styrofoam (interpretation) can help with housing. Perhaps costs can be reduced. I wanted that considered for the future. Earlier my colleague brought up windows. I wanted to bring those up as suggestions to provide support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you for your comments. Moving on. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Probably one question, if I need to.

In your statement you mentioned, like all of us I guess, you want to encourage Nunavummiut to do what they can do to reduce emissions. What are some of the initiatives or ideas that you might want to give to Nunavummiut to help out in reducing emissions? I know in Nunavut we don't have that much, but I think anything little helps. Would you have any suggestions in your communiqué or as this July 1 passes by, will there be any suggestions to Nunavummiut as to what initiatives they can do? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickes. Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very good question, Mr. Quassa. I think Ms. Angnakak alluded to a few of them earlier on turning your thermostat down in the evening, using energy-efficient bulbs, making sure your windows are closed, and using your air exchange system properly.

People are looking at carpooling. If you're a number of people going to the same place, you can travel together or walk. There is also low idling. I know a number of businesses have put signs out front, "No idling zone" type of thing, so you don't leave your vehicle running for half an hour at a time. Making sure that you take proper maintenance of your vehicles, changing air filters, making sure you're changing your oil increases your efficiency of fuel, those are just some ideas that come to my mind off the top of my head.

I do appreciate the question because I think that would be a very important part of our communications strategy so that people know what steps they can take to reduce their impact. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of people have cabins out there and they use some of these products. People with cabins are starting to increase and I'm pretty sure they are going to be affected too. What is the observation on this for the many people who have cabins across the land out there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickes. Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not specific to outdoors or cabins, same thing with this price reduction at the pump will help offset some of that challenge. That being said, some of the initiatives through the other bill that I read earlier today on the amendments to the Income Tax Act will benefit people as well too to help offset further the carbon tax impact. We don't have anything at this time. That's not to say that something down the road that could be figured out on how to implement something for subsistence harvesters or other initiatives that we will be taking a look at down the road. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. If there are no other questions, we will move on. We're doing Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 1, 2019-2020. Finance. Not Previously Authorized. \$3,600,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 1, 2019-2020. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance. Appropriation. \$3,600,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Please go to Bill 22 in your legislative binders.

Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2020. Vote 1: Operations and Maintenance. Total Appropriation. \$3,600,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. 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 22 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 22 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I now give Minister Hickes the opportunity if he has any closing comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: I'll keep them very short, Mr. Chairman. I thank you and thank the members for the support of this bill. I look very much forward to further initiatives to help reduce the impact of the carbon tax on Nunavummiut.

I would like to thank my team behind the scenes. This seems like a very simple bill, but a lot of work has gone into it and a lot of different ideas were bantered about. I look forward to further initiatives and ideas from the public, from my colleagues here in the Assembly and across the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, we also thank you and your staff for your efforts on this bill.

Before we move on, we're going to take a very brief break to get ready for the next bill. Thank you.

# >>Committee recessed at 16:46 and resumed at 16:48

**Chairman**: Thank you. We are doing Bill 23. I will now ask Minister Hickes if he could please introduce his witnesses and continue on into his opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020 – Consideration in Committee Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No stranger to this House, Mr. Eiryn Devereaux, Assistant Deputy Minister with Community and Government Services, and still with me, Deputy Minister Jeff Chown from the Department of Finance.

I would like to thank the Chair and members again. I appear before you today to present Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020.* Through it, we are seeking approval to carry over \$116 million in capital appropriations from fiscal year 2018-19 to 2019-2020.

This is required because departments did not fully spend the capital funds appropriated to them in 2018-19. Departments require the Assembly's renewed authority to spend in 2019-2020 so they can continue to advance their projects.

Mr. Chairman and members, it is very important to note that the Assembly has already approved these projects through previous capital plans. It is also important to emphasize that we are not seeking new money. Instead we are simply requesting approval to continue to move these projects forward in 2019-2020.

Through Bill 23 we are seeking to carry over funds for 138 projects. Internally we consider carryover requests in two groups.

The first group includes 109 projects where the Government of Nunavut has already made financial or contractual commitments to continue. We refer to these as "FAM compliant," or Financial Adminstration Manual compliant. Bill 23 seeks approval of \$108.43 million to allow the Government of Nunavut to continue these ongoing projects in 2019-2020 to meet our commitments.

The second group includes 29 projects the Assembly has approved but the Government of Nunavut has not yet reached the stage where there are legal commitments to proceed. We refer to these as "non-Financial Administration Manual compliant." Bill 23 seeks approval of \$7.64 million to enable the Government of Nunavut to move these projects beyond initial stages.

Mr. Chairman and members, if the Assembly does not approve these appropriations, 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.

We always expect some level of carryovers because real-life project managment does not always line up with cash flow spreadsheets. As we improve our planning in cash flow management at the project level, we can expect the overall amount of carryovers to decline somewhat over time, as they have done.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that as about \$17 million of our request relates to the somewhat unique Kivalliq Energy Management Project, our core carryover amount this year is about \$98.9 million. This is significantly lower than a few years ago when carryovers were closer to \$150 million. The total capital carryovers are broken down as follows:

• \$60.1 million to the Department of

Community and Government Services for 53 projects covering a range of municipal and community infrastructure projects as well as the Kivalliq Energy Management Project;

- \$17.79 million to the Department of Education for 32 projects, including Kugaaruk new school, Igloolik new high school, Cambridge Bay elementary school foundation, Rankin Inlet Maani Ulujuk High School doors, windows and siding, and repairs and renovations to several schools;
- \$12.21 million to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to continue 15 projects, including the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet marine infrastructure projects, Cambridge Bay Airport improvements, and a number of other airport improvement projects;
- \$7.40 million to the Department of Justice for the Qikiqtani Correctional Healing Centre, the CRC fire system upgrade, and the Public Trustee client records management system;
- \$7.39 million to the Department of Health for six projects, including Sanikiluaq and Cape Dorset health centre replacements, the repair and renovation of several health facilities;
- \$5.56 million to Nunavut Arctic College through the Department of Finance to continue 15 projects, including community learning centres in Iqaluit, Whale Cove, and Grise Fiord, a new student records system, Q units levelling study, the

Kitikmeot Campus development project, ongoing lifecycle, and four other minor projects;

- \$3.3 million to the Department of Family Services for its client information system and adult group home in Rankin Inlet and three minor capital projects;
- \$2.04 million to the Department of Environment for the Resolute Bay Wildlife Office replacement, Gjoa Haven and Cape Dorset wildlife office renovations, and the Katannilik Territorial Park project; and
- \$250,000 to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for small capital.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am available to address questions about the supplementary appropriation or capital estimates process generally. However, I do encourage members to save their questions on specific projects for the responsible ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Before we move on, I just want to remind members that all this capital money has been approved in previous budgets. It's just that they have to get permission to carry it over to another year. It's not like it is new money that's being approved here. I will now move on to general comments. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3, the top bullet, it speaks about Nunavut Arctic College and continuing 15 projects, including community learning centres. Chesterfield Inlet has not been mentioned, so I'm curious to know whether there is a schedule of which each of the community learning centres are identified as needing renovations. If there is, is there a five-year capital plan? Is there a schedule?

To my knowledge, the Chesterfield Inlet Community Learning Centre is very crowded. That's a general comment of something that I have observed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Are there any more comments? If not, we will move on. I now ask members to go to page 4 of the document and we will be breaking this down. There are several pages, about 15 pages to this document, and we will break it down accordingly as we move along. We're going to start with Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2019-2020. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. \$250,000. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question isn't about this page specifically; it's to the minister's opening comments, if that's alright. On the second page of his opening comments, the minister mentions "As we improve our planning and cash flow management at the project level, we can expect the overall amount of carryovers to decline somewhat over time." Specifically I'm interested in what's being done to improve planning and cash flow management. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a nutshell, just a couple of things; one is the preplanning dollars that Community and Government Services has accessed the last few fiscal years. It allows the scope and the definition of a project to be better detailed so that there is a lot less volatility when you go to market or go to tender for a project.

We get better planning in that regard as well too on construction projects in different regions or communities and are able to make adjustments, such as recently in Cape Dorset. There are a number of different projects scheduled to go on at the same time, so we took the opportunity to transfer one project or accelerate a project in Sanikiluaq and now we're continuing with the project in Cape Dorset.

It allows a little bit more real-time adjustments to be made, as well as with the preplanning dollars to be able to have more accurate numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation) Ideally we would be seeing less and less of these carryover amounts through better planning, and the minister does mention that in his opening comments where the high score or the high water mark was \$150 million a few years ago. I mean we're still in the \$100 million range and that's half of our annual capital budget.

Looking at it from a high-level perspective, each year when we

appropriate, ballpark, \$200 million for capital, we're only capable of spending half of that in the fiscal year in which it is earmarked for. It's concerning that things seem to be so, I guess, looseygoosey, or maybe that's the wrong term, but there seems to be so much need for these continual carryovers and carryovers. I mean there's one item in this bill where we already know that it will not be spent in this fiscal year. We already know that it cannot be spent in this fiscal year; it will be spent in 2020-21, so it's concerning.

When we look at the number of projects, put aside the dollar value, 138 projects, I'm interested in what the trend is in terms of the number of projects that are subject to these carryovers each year. Is this ballpark a number that is stable? Is it a number that's higher than previous years? Is it a number that's lower in terms of the number of projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While my partners here are looking up the exact information on the trends, I do believe that it has been trending down along with the dollar amount.

That being said, I will take this opportunity to comment on the member's initial comment. I believe it's nearly impossible to not have capital carryovers, especially in Nunavut, because of our short building season, multi-year projects, monies allocated for planning, and then sealift materials, and then the construction side. Our projects are more complicated than most other jurisdictions. If we're short something, we can't run down to RONA and grab a new beam or something.

That being said, I do strongly believe that we are going in the right direction. A number of years back when we were looking at these capital carryovers, I wouldn't use the member's term "loosey-goosey," but it's a lot tighter now than it used to be by an extreme amount where, because of the planning, the scope of the work is more detailed.

I don't think we have any historical trends. I would have to get back and maybe speak to the member or maybe respond in writing with some historical data on trends that I could provide to the committee, but anecdotally I will say that the trend is going down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Okay, we were on Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Department. \$250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Next we will be doing pages 5 and 6 for the Department of Finance. Are there any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you. Could I get some more information, not to go into too much detail, just about the residence repairs for the Iqaluit student residence repairs? Are those the ones above the current Arctic College now? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes. **Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just says the "Iqaluit Student R Repairs." There are three units that had some damage; two of the units were due to a leak that occurred in one unit, and there's another damaged by the resident that needs to be repaired. I don't have an exact location of where they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you. Just in the booklet we have it says, "Iqaluit Student Residence Repairs," and it is a little over a million dollars. That's quite a significant amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. To correct you, the amount is \$58,000. You're reading the line below it.

>>Laughter

Was there a question in that, Ms. Angnakak? No, it was just a comment? Okay. Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While on this Q unit item, we have heard for quite a while now and are aware that ever since they had a levelling issue with the building, it has needed adjusting. There is about a million dollars that was not spent last year, \$946,000. Hopefully it won't be the same case next year. We have been dealing with this for quite a few years. They said they were going to complete the project last year, yet we continue to see that number. I wanted to comment on that.

My colleague indicated that we are

going to be approving something that we know won't be spent this year. Hopefully they can complete the work in the upcoming year. I wanted to comment on the (interpretation ends) Q units levelling study, (interpretation) Mr. Chairman. We have been hearing for quite a long time that they will be dealing with it. They don't necessarily have to keep doing it. It's not much of a question but more of a comment. I just wanted to point that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Minister Hickes, I do believe you wanted to comment on that, or is it okay? Please go ahead, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there have been delays in the tender process. The bids were coming in well over the approved budget, so it has created some delays. We do recognize that it's still occurring on the 7 to 10 millimetre per year range, so it's something that we do recognize we have to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is: the Kitikmeot Campus facility development, \$1,176,000, is this a new facility or a mining facility? What are we talking about here? I need some clarification on the Kitikmeot Campus facility development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the

question. This is a new facility that's being built. It's a multi-year project, so as the planning and everything for the facility is phasing in, all the money wasn't expended in this fiscal year, so it's carrying over to the next to continue the construction and everything else on that project. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie, you have no more questions? Anybody else with a question on pages 5 or 6? If not, we are doing Finance. Total Department. \$5,564,000. Agreed?

## Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Moving to page 7. Justice. Not Previously Authorized. First we will deal with Directorate. Total Directorate. \$150,000. Agreed?

## Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Moving down to Corrections. Total Corrections. \$7,251,000. Are there any questions? Do members agree?

## Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Total Department. \$7,401,000. Agreed?

#### Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Moving on. The next section will cover pages 8 and 9. Education. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments you made reference to education. There are 32 projects and some of those are for new siding for schools, and you say Kugluktuk and that, but one thing I don't see in here is the Aqsarniit Middle School siding project. These funds were under the department's ongoing lifecycle funds and they were allocated for the Aqsarniit Middle School siding project for the 2016-17 capital year.

I live across from that school and I can tell you that siding has never been changed. Nothing has been done on it. It's not a completed project, yet I don't see it in here and the numbers have just sort of disappeared. Now we're in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Why are the funds not included as another capital carryover in the current supplementary bill? I guess, furthermore, if you can tell me what the current status is of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only thing I can say is if it was in the ongoing lifecycle part of the budget line, they might have spread it out over a couple of different years where they didn't need to carry it over, but it's not in a carryover request in the list that we have right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. It may be a question more appropriate for the Minister of Education at another time. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you. Well, we are talking about capital projects here and it was in May 2017. It just seems all of a sudden they are not there anymore, things that we have approved. It makes me wonder: where is the oversight? Are there other projects that we have

approved and we have forgotten about that haven't been done? To me it is quite concerning. I would appreciate if I can get something back from either the minister, and it doesn't have to be today, or somebody go and find out what happened to that money, and what is the current status of that project, if you can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see the Minister of Education paying attention very closely here, so I'm assuming he got the message. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Did you have another question, Ms. Angnakak? No? Okay. Moving on. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like some clarification. I have a question regarding Taloyoak's Netsilik School. Its power generator costs \$132,000. Can the minister explain what this is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The carryover amount is part of the new generator backup system. The oil tank has been supplied and the continuing design is in progress. Also, there's an alarm contract that was associated with that and that has been awarded. The contract is in progress and expected to be completed early this fiscal year. It's on track. Basically they have got the oil tanks. The supply and design is just being finalized for the backup generator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for explaining that, as residents of our community need to be informed on what is happening with that project.

I also want to see where the other project is at for the new Kugaaruk school. There are modular classrooms for \$213,000. I wonder and so my constituents can hear, can the minister clarify what the modular classrooms will be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the new school construction, the carryover is to finish the completion, which we are anticipating late summer of this year to be completed.

The \$213,000 for the modular classrooms is for the cleanup of the modular classrooms that have been used on an emergency basis since the school fire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the (interpretation ends) modular classrooms (interpretation) be removed and relocated? I would like to know, hence my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they are finished being used, repurposing options will be explored. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chesterfield Inlet, while the Minister of Education is listening, has been requesting industrial tech workshop renovations with ongoing lifecycle repairs. I am not seeing Chesterfield Inlet, so I am putting it forward so it will be recorded.

My main question is IT infrastructure, \$2 million. That's Igloolik high school. IT infrastructure is \$305,000. For what school is that going to? I would assume we need a lot of IT infrastructure in all the schools across Nunavut and I find that cost to be a little bit low. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This covers 44 schools. Out of those, there are approximately 4,000 Internet-capable devices; computers, tablets, different routers, printers, etcetera, so it's just through an ongoing lifecycle replacement. With regard to why it is specifically being carried over, there have been some issues around supplying some of the material and shipping to some of the communities and that has contributed to the delay. To make sure that those needs are being met in the schools, we have requested to carry this money over so that we can still ship those items to the schools. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Are there any more questions on page 8 or 9? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm just curious. Maybe this is a question that the minister can't answer. Maybe it is something better for the Department of Education, but why does the Department of Education have so many projects carried over? I know they have a number of schools, but Arviat Levi Angmak flooring, for example, has been carried forward before. I believe, and here we are again. There seems to be a systematic inability to execute on time with these capital projects. I don't know. Is it because of the school year? Is it because of staffing challenges within the department specific to the Department of Education? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to say very briefly that there are a number of different reasons why projects can be delayed; availability of contractors, supply issues, shipping issues.

With regard specifically to the Department of Education, if the Chair will allow, I will ask Mr. Devereaux to elaborate just on the complexity of the number of different projects that they have ongoing. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Devereaux.

**Mr. Devereaux**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the

question. I think, when you see the Department of Education's list of projects in the capital carryover bill, a lot of them are lifecycle projects, smaller projects.

I think it is a fair comment to say that we have been focusing over the last three to four years on improved planning of projects and scope definition to get better costing to try to minimize the capital carryovers, and we have really focused on the bigger, major capital projects. I think what that is highlighting for us is on the smaller lifecycle projects that are \$400,000 and \$800,000, we probably do need to do a better job of properly planning those out.

A lot of the ones that you see reflected for the Department of Education tend to be those smaller ones. I think we're always going to be seeing some carryovers on small capital projects due to the nature of those projects and whether it is sealift delays or contractor availability. I do take the member's question, and from the CGS perspective of project delivery, I think we do recognize where we need to improve upon planning of the smaller projects. We are absolutely taxed in terms of the availability of our project resources to undertake that.

With our limited project resources, we focus on the larger, major capital projects. We have a better bang for the buck to ensure stronger planning and cash flow management. I think it is a fair comment to say that we could improve upon planning on the smaller ones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) *Ma'na* for the response. In terms of contractor availability, looking at education for example, I think it might be a possible side effect from the changes that have happened within the housing corporation over the past number of years where we have seen a hollowing out of the small communitybased contractors that used to get those housing build contracts. They have gone now to supply, ship, and erect, which are different, difficult contracts for a small contractor to take on.

In terms of the local contractor availability, if there is any information to share in terms of what is the situation across Nunavut in terms of trying to get the contractors to do this work? Is it just a case of where we don't have enough contractors? I'm trying to keep it within the scope of this bill, but as it pertains to capital carryovers, would a healthier contractor base assist the government in reducing the amount of carryovers in future years? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does vary community to community, even region to region. At the same time, when some of these smaller bids come in, because a lot of the larger companies don't feel it is worth their time, they inflate their bids and then it puts delays in the project that comes in over budget. So then it creates that backlog, then the situation gets even worse. Sometimes the scope of the work has to change because it has been delayed for a year or two and it has gotten worse than it was.

It's kind of a domino effect where we have to really work with our local contractors to make sure that they put in appropriate bids for the scope of work that's being done and work with them to help develop their capacity through other initiatives, through our economic development department on any small business opportunities there; work with CGS, work with the departments themselves to build that capacity.

I have always championed apprenticeship across this territory, and the more longer term work that can be achieved in a community, it's a selffulfilling prophecy where you just keep getting those apprentices with the hours, and then you create more journeypersons, and then it goes on and on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our constituents are currently watching the televised proceedings and I would like clarification on the new high school in Igloolik, which we were expecting. I remember it was going to be officially opened in June 2018. We already heard that it was going to be delayed, but I would like to hear from you personally why the funding that was identified last year is being carried over to this year.

Is the funding going to be used this year so that the students can start going to school in the fall when the school year begins? That's what I would like to expect and I hope that will be the case. I don't want to see it again this year due to not being completed. There must be reasons for the delay. Therefore we would like to get further clarification on why it was delayed when it was supposed to be done last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Forgive my smile. We were commenting while the member was asking his question that he didn't want to see this here again next year and neither do we.

There has been, as a lot of people in Igloolik are aware, an issue with the foundation, with the pad of that school. With any type of deficiency, we work with the contractor to come to a resolution on whose responsibility it is and it has taken a little while, but we are anticipating the work to be completed this year, with the completion date of this fall for that school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here it states Kugluktuk Jimmy Hikok siding project for \$218,000. Just for the record, can you clarify that? The school has beautiful siding. I'm assuming you're touching it up. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, from the information that I have, the carryover is because it has been a part of a multi-year project. As the work is almost completed, they are looking at resuming and finalizing the completion this summer. It has been ongoing, just to deal with any final deficiencies to the work that has been done already. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Again I have no more names on my list. We are on page 9 for the Department of Education. Total Department. \$17,790,000. Agreed?

# Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will now move to page 10. Department of Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. \$7,385,000. Are there any questions? Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I want to just ask about a project that I don't see on here and that's the Martha Taliruq Elders Centre in Baker Lake. It was supposed to go through some renovations and I know that there was funding approved for it. Perhaps if the minister can give us an update on where are you with that and why don't we see anything on here for that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to that facility in Baker Lake, at this time basically everything is on hold with the elders strategy that we've got coming out in the very near future on how we're going to be looking at elder care across the territory. Looking at the code requirements to bring that facility up to long-term care facility code, it's probably not and it definitely doesn't fit within the budget that was previously allocated. If there is no carryover associated with previously approved dollars, then those dollars would have lapsed. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the community is quite concerned to hear that. Is that something that you have told the new Speaker, the MLA, and the community? Are you communicating that back? I think there are some people who are wondering where that project is at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last session, yes, I did elaborate that it would be very difficult to bring that building up to code for long-term care. That being said, there is still analysis being done. There was a fuel spill underneath the building last year that we had to wait for the spring runoff to do our air quality assessments and any other testing that would have to be done to make that into a residence or even a long-term office space. That being said, it has been fairly recent occurrences, but at the same time I have been very clear that there are challenges with that facility. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak**: I was just thinking I will say no because I'm going to go off on a thing, so I will keep it to an oral question instead. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any other questions on page 10? If not, Health. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Total Department. \$7,385,000. Agreed?

### Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go to page 11. Department of Environment. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. \$2,039,000. Any questions on that one? If not, do members agree to \$2,039,000?

#### Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. The next section covers pages 12, 13, and 14 and it is Community and Government Services. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Are there any question on these three pages? Mr. Main.

#### >>Laughter

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess my first question is about this largest item here, the Kivalliq Energy Management Program. It is \$17 million. In terms of an update, how much of this funding can we expect to see carried over in the next fiscal year? I am wondering; it is a large project and it is quite complex. Does the Department of CGS plan to fully expend this amount in this fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get the appropriate level of detail, I will ask Mr. Devereaux to respond to this question, please. **Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Devereaux, please go ahead.

**Mr. Devereaux**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. This capital carryover is recognition of a non-cash appropriation.

The Kivalliq Energy Management Project was an undertaking where we identified approximately \$25 million worth of energy upgrades to some of our older buildings that had a very strong payback. We entered into a contract with an energy management company who financed those capital implementation measures. All this is doing is recognizing that over the course of the next eight to ten years of the payback period, the payback will come from the actual energy savings realized. This is just recognizing in essence that debt over the course of the next eight to ten years.

It shows up here as a capital carryover just as that one-time recognition. It is somewhat comparable to the Iqaluit airport project where another party undertook the capital and there was a need to identify it on the finance records. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Mr. Main

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the explanation. My next question is there are a large number of projects under solid waste facilities. I wish we can just call them dumps, but I realize that it is not the proper term, "dump." There are a number of projects under water infrastructure and wastewater treatment.

Not looking at any particular project,

just when we look at those, I believe they were bundled projects, are they on track or has there been something delaying these water and solid waste facility projects that we should know about? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of these projects are basically multi-year projects, so it was anticipated to have some carryover, especially as a bulk of them were covered under the Building Canada Fund, which does put its own little timeline challenges in place with when the funding agreements are signed off on. There's not always recognition from the federal government on our sealift supply season, so it can put some challenges in place for delivery. This isn't considered a delay. It's just the nature of the beast in this case, if I may put it that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 14 there's an item under the Petroleum Products Division, \$6.7 million for code compliance. (interpretation) I would like to know if that's a safety issue when they're not up to code. When we're told that we're not up to code and there's \$6.7 million set aside, do you believe that this is going to be done soon? I would like to know if there would be a safety issue for (interpretation ends) petroleum products. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just again to get the level of detail, I'll ask Mr. Devereaux to respond, please.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Devereaux, please go ahead.

**Mr. Devereaux**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. A number of years back a variety of environmental protection orders came forward from the federal jurisdiction having authority. They recognize that we're a large portfolio owner of petroleum tank farms across the territory, and they also acknowledge that some of the existing facilities required some upgrades that had a safety nature to them.

There's nothing outstanding from our perspective that is an imminent risk that requires us to do something today. We undertook a plan with the federal jurisdiction having authority, over a period of four to five years, to tackle a lot of these code issues. Some of them are mechanical alarms. Some of them are single-walled pipes to be doublewalled pipes. We have been working through; we have completed a number of communities in terms of those environmental protection orders and completed the upgrades. Within the fiveyear capital plan there is funding each year so we can try to address all of them.

We did have some carryovers. When we get into planning some of the environmental protection order scope

items for a few of the communities, we recognize that the scope is probably bigger than originally thought. At the same time, if we're going to go in and do some of these upgrades that are required from the environmental protection order, we might also want to do some other lifecycle type... And then that kind of put a pause on us to say well, maybe we have to push this into the following year and seek some additional lifecycle money to expand those projects.

That's an update on them. There are none of these that are of a safety risk that if we don't do them tomorrow, we're at a high risk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Devereaux. Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. Just a very quick comment, I don't often see Chesterfield Inlet on any plan or capital estimates, but I'm very pleased to see Chesterfield Inlet arena upgrades for this year. I assume that after the summer planning and redesigning, it will completed by 2021. I'm really pleased to see that and I know Chesterfield Inlet is listening, so there you go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding Taloyoak's solid waste renovation project totalling \$87,000. It is good to see this project, albeit it is not a large project. Nonetheless, it may still require another year to complete it. I would like to speak to this matter about Taloyoak's sewage lagoon as I don't see any funds set aside for this and this winter we saw the digital version. It was shown on Facebook that their lagoon is leaking to their lakes and they have no berm around their sewage lagoon. Perhaps I will raise that in oral questions. I don't see it in the plan. I just wanted to elaborate on that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I think that was just a comment. Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see in here Kugluktuk Water Treatment Plant for \$303,000. Can you elaborate on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, just when the new treatment plan came online, there were some issues or deficiencies that were noted and some filters that needed to be changed. This is just to finalize the commissioning of that facility. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. Will that work be completed by next year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work is anticipated to be completed by this fall, yes. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Sorry, I didn't hear what you said. I was listening to somebody else in my ear. Minister

Hickes, if you could repeat what you said, please.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's anticipated to be completed by this fall. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We are now to the grand total on page 14 for Community and Government Services. Total Department. \$60,096,000. Agreed?

# Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Page 15. Economic Development and Transportation. Are there any questions? If not, Total Department. \$12,210,000. Agreed?

## Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Now the Department of Family Services on page 16. Not Previously Authorized. Are there any questions? If not, Total Department is \$3,329,000. Agreed?

# Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Going back to page 2. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 2, 2019-2020. Schedule 1. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$116,064,000. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for interrupting. I just wanted to make a final comment. I just wanted to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before us today and for all the effort put into producing these documents. I would also like to extend the appreciation to Expenditure Management of the Department of Finance and the Capital Planning Division of the Department of CGS for the drafting and review of all the substantiation sheets required to put this bill together. I understand it is quite a heavy workload and I just want to make sure that credit is given where the credit is due. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. We are on Total Capital Appropriation. \$116,064,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Go to Bill 23 in your legislative binders, please. Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020.* Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2020. Vote 2: Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$116,064,000. 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 23 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Do members agree, pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 23 can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Now I will ask Minister Hickes if you have any closing comments. Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know much of what I can say after Mr. Lightstone made his comments. They are very much appreciated. There is a lot of work that goes into providing this level of detail and for these fine gentlemen to try to ingrain that knowledge into me, so I give them all the credit in the world.

I would like to thank the members for their diligence on this. It is previously appropriated funds and we are carrying it over, and I appreciate the due diligence by the committee members and the Chair's discretion. I just want to thank everyone. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here and presenting this to us today. With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can please escort the witnesses out.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wish to report progress at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Main. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debateable. All those favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. Thank you too. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

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

# Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 22 and 23 and would like to report that Bills 22 and 23 are immediately 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**: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Minister Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

#### Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

# Bill 22 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2019-2020, 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 22 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

## Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2019-2020*, 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 23 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

# Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Regular Caucus at ten o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 30:

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Ministers' Statements
- 3. Members' Statements
- 4. Returns to Oral Questions
- 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
- 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
  - Bill 24
  - Bill 26

- Bill 27
- Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
- 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker**: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 30, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 17:51