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Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasié, 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. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Before our meeting begins, can you say the opening prayer, please, Member Quassa.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. To the people of Baker Lake and Nunavut who are watching and listening to the proceedings, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will now proceed.

Continuing on with the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 314 – 5(2): Safe and Caring Schools**

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I stand before you and my colleagues today to inform you of my department's new work to foster safe and caring schools.

So far this fall, education staff have delivered conferences for school leaders, student support teachers, *Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit*, and northern Qikiqtani youth that focused on building knowledge and capacity related to safety in schools. The conferences helped to build knowledge in self-regulation, trauma-informed approaches, youth self-injury, and sexual abuse prevention and reporting. They built staff and youth capacity in reframing behaviour by recognizing stressors and enhancing stress awareness.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Education is committed to *Tunnganarniq*, which is a fundamental tenet of the Safe and Caring Schools Framework being developed to guide school staff in their work of fostering learning environments where students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported, and challenged.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department is completing consultations with key stakeholders, including elders, district education authorities, youth, and school staff. It is clear that Nunavummiut view the ongoing development of safe and caring school communities as a collective responsibility. This includes government, educators, parents, and every member of the school community. Ongoing consultations will continue to inform the work of my department's Safe and Caring Schools Framework. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 315– 5(2):
Renovation of Building in Rankin
Inlet**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to the people of Coral Harbour and Naujaat, as well as the newly elected councillors and mayors. We very much congratulate you and wish you the best. That's great.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, there are buildings in our communities that sit vacant. Often these buildings are uninhabitable and they require major renovations to make them usable again. An uninhabitable Rankin Inlet housing unit will see new life as a tool for training future tradespeople.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation made the unit available to Nunavut Arctic College. Trades students from the Kivalliq Campus are renovating the three-bedroom unit and are gaining valuable hands-on experience. At the end of the process, Rankin Inlet will have another available unit for people to live in, and the hands-on experience is very beneficial to the students.

Mr. Speaker, the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* identifies workforce development as a key issue. With the NHC continuing to build more homes to meet increasing demand, there will be more people needed to maintain these

houses.

Mr. Speaker, I highlight this initiative because it demonstrates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is using creative solutions to fight the housing crisis. I also hope this joint project makes students aware of the continued need for housing maintainers and it will inspire them to pursue that career path. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

**Minister's Statement 316 – 5(2):
Muskox Total Allowable Harvest
Increase in Management Unit MX-
08**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you and to the newly elected mayors and councils, I congratulate you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to tell my fellow members about a change in the total allowable harvest for muskox in management unit MX-08 in the Gulf of Boothia. The TAH was increased from 66 animals to 275 in July of this year.

In 1985 there was no muskox on the Boothia Peninsula. However, in 2017 the muskox population had recovered to an estimated 3,500 or more. The Taloyoak Hunters and Trappers Organization recently requested an increase in the total allowable harvest, and this has been supported both by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the Department

of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the ability to harvest more muskox will increase the availability of country food in the communities and more materials will become available for traditional clothing and crafts.

The Department of Environment will continue to monitor muskox populations in Nunavut and work with the Taloyoak HTO to implement the new total allowable harvest. We are pleased to be able to work with and support Nunavut's HTOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 317 – 5(2): Inuit Tourism Business Development

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm delighted to announce that four Inuit tourism businesses are part of the second cohort of the EntrepreNorth initiative. It offers programming to empower indigenous and community-based entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses and livelihoods across northern Canada.

Over the past two years my department has brought Inuit businesses to trade shows to give them national and international exposure, build relationships, and provided training and support to ensure they are ready to give tourists an amazing experience.

(interpretation ends) This collaboration

between my department and EntrepreNorth offers additional support and brings tailor-made training in all aspects of their businesses, from operations, business administration, finance, service delivery, and customer service.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to support and promote entrepreneurship among Inuit to ensure that we have strong representation in our tourism industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Minister's Statement 318 – 5(2): Recovery Centre and Addictions Awareness Week

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every November, Nunavummiut from across the territory are encouraged to join the Department of Health in recognizing National Addictions Awareness Week. We do this to both draw attention to problematic substance use in Nunavut and more so to educate and reduce the negative impacts and stigma associated with addictions.

Mr. Speaker, each year that Addictions Awareness Week passes by, Nunavut is better equipped to address and treat substance use within our communities. On August 19 of this year the Department of Health, representing the Government of Nunavut, entered into a joint declaration of intent, alongside Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Canada, to commit to

an in-territory addictions and trauma treatment centre.

Mr. Speaker, establishing this centre provides the territory one more resource in addressing healing, substance use, and trauma in Nunavut. Increasing access to health services in the territory and strengthening mental health services are major priorities captured both through *Turaaqtavut* and *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq*. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to collaborating with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to secure the land required and to identify an Inuit-first workforce development plan that will be implemented at the centre.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement serves as a tangible example of the types of innovation in the work of the Nunavut Partnership Table on Health in the development of Inuit-specific approaches to health and wellness throughout Nunavut. Mr. Speaker and members, while it will take time to build the centre, the Department of Health remains committed to delivering its existing mental health and addictions programming, which Nunavummiut can access at their local health centre.

When it comes to providing access to mental health and addictions services, I would like to recognize my department's role in working with community-based organizations to support on-the-land healing camps. To date two 28-day healing camps have taken place in the territory, with a third one underway right now. I would like to congratulate Nunavummiut participating in these programs for their continued efforts in working toward recovery, and also encourage those who are thinking about recovery to reach out for help at their

local health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 473 – 5(2): 2019 High School Graduates of Chesterfield Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

Now, I rise today to announce this past August's celebration in Chesterfield Inlet when the Victor Sammurtook School 2019 graduation ceremony took place, and I would like to announce their names here:

- Paul Jr. Autut
- Marjorie Aggark
- Donald Mullins
- Barbera Kadjuk
- Mablik Issaluk
- Willie Kattegatsiak

It is quite obvious that although Chesterfield Inlet is a small community, residents are able to graduate from their local schools, so I am very grateful for the success of the residents of Chesterfield Inlet.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 474 – 5(2):
Community Initiatives to Address
Social Issues**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung. I also want to congratulate the newly elected councillors and mayor of Pangnirtung.

I rise today to speak to the campaign promises we voiced as being our priorities, including community wellness, which is usually a top priority. I have spoken to this matter in the past that even when we experience stressful situations, we must continue to move forward. We must also try to resolve pressing needs in our communities, we have to request positions on certain matters, and we mustn't be afraid to ask questions.

As you may be aware, Pangnirtung has had a difficult year compared to other communities on the number of stressful circumstances, although every community goes through them. In particular we have faced ongoing addiction problems, unexpected loss of relatives, and horrific incidents of domestic violence. Every community goes through difficulties and Pangnirtung is no different in terms of challenges.

Further, I want to acknowledge our government. I am aware that within their respective mandates, they offer services and support to the residents of Pangnirtung, particularly in social

service provision. Nonetheless, we know that our preference is to receive ongoing assistance, but many services have to be applied for with funding proposals and such. Both the federal government and the Government of Nunavut request applications for funding community wellness initiatives. I spoke about the need we have for ongoing community wellness funding, especially in the field of health.

The local committees, whether or not they are under the hamlet, struggle to try to attain consistent funding that allows ongoing care and support. We have to put more effort in voicing their needs through cooperation and deliberation. I also appreciate that the residents of Pangnirtung have not just accepted the circumstances but instead have tried to enact changes when facing a social crisis like other communities.

I'm sorry. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member Nakashuk, please proceed.

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

I know that residents of Pangnirtung have not just accepted the circumstances. They have struggled to resolve these challenges and they have requested support and assistance from both levels of government that will allow them to deliberate on their choices.

At the appropriate time I will have

questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

**Member's Statement 475 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Iqaluit Mayor
and Council**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to the newly elected mayor and council of the City of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit's new mayor is Kenny Bell. Mr. Bell has served on council previously and will be very familiar with many of the challenges facing the city. The new city council includes Janet Brewster, Joanasie Akumalik, Solomon Awa, Romeyn Stevenson, Sheila Flaherty, Kyle Sheppard, Simon Nattaq, and Malaiya Lucassie. Half of the newly elected councillors are incumbents, which will bring good continuity to the council's deliberations and decisions.

Mr. Speaker, running for public office takes courage and effort, and I would like to thank all of the candidates for putting their names forward.

I look forward to a positive future for the City of Iqaluit in the hands of its new mayor and council. Again, my congratulations to those who were elected to serve our fine city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 476 – 5(2): 2019
High School Graduates of
Kugluktuk**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Kuglukturmiut. Good afternoon to my daughters who are probably at home having lunch. I miss you; I love you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a number of Kugluktuk youth on their recent successes. I would like to congratulate the 2019 graduating class of the Kugluktuk High School. These young people have reached an important milestone on their journey to a promising future.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of them and I am sure their families are even more proud. I would like to congratulate:

- Eustace Kadlun
- Gordon Kaniak
- Clayton Nahook Niptanatiak
- Katie Kuliktana
- Kendal Kuodluak
- Megan Case
- Breale Hokanak

Mr. Speaker, these youth have shown that they can work hard to reach their goals. A High School Diploma can open the doors to many new opportunities and, in following these opportunities, I have no doubt that these young, successful graduates can and will achieve even greater objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2019 high school graduates and encouraging them to continue their work towards their future success. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 477 – 5(2):
Supporting the Inuit Language**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I congratulate my fellow residents of Netsilik for their recent election as mayors.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express a concern which has also been expressed by my senior colleague that the language we claim as the first language of Nunavut, the Inuit language, is not in reality being treated as such.

Mr. Speaker, during our recent committee hearings we learned from witnesses representing the Auditor General of Canada and the Government of Nunavut that the requirements to graduate from high school in Nunavut focus mainly on passing English language courses.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that our government makes a stronger commitment to implement Inuit language use in our education system. Our youth need support in our own language, Inuktitut, to succeed at school. In this way we will be able to bring our educational standards to a level that is

equal to standards across the nation.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, our language is our strength. Let us use our strength to enable us to succeed and to be successful in dealing with the world outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 478 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Igloodik Mayor
and Council**

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

Indeed, yesterday general elections were held in all communities, and as a matter of fact, all members must have voted in this election. Now, in Igloodik I want to congratulate the newly elected representatives. We got a new mayor elected and he is Merlyn Recinos. He is the first non-Inuk mayor elected in Igloodik. We also had several councillors who were acclaimed and therefore didn't need to be voted in, but I am still proud they put their names forward for elections. They are:

- Celestino Uyarak, recently a mayor who is now a councillor
- David Aqqiaruq
- Erasmus Ivvalu
- Gordon Piugattuk
- Lionel Evaloarjuk
- Neeve Uttak
- Simon Tapardjuk

They are the new councillors who will represent our community and I take great pride in them, all Nunavummiut who ran and my fellow residents of Igloodik who voted in the elections. I thank you for your vote as elections are very important to enact changes. They followed the process, so I voice my pride in everyone who ran in the election and share the congratulations with my colleagues here in Iqaluit as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 479 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Mayors and
Councils of Clyde River and
Qikiqtarjuaq**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to voice my congratulations. As members stated, elections occurred throughout Nunavut yesterday, so I also wish to congratulate the new elected members.

I have two constituency communities where they elected a mayor. In Clyde River many people know this person for his advocacy work while acting as the representative and as the mayor. I want to share my pride with my colleagues for the election of this person who worked extremely hard to fight off seismic testing near Clyde River. Jerry Natanine was re-elected as the mayor. Although he took time off, he will now be the mayor again in Clyde River.

They also elected a mayor in Qikiqtarjuaq and the newly elected

mayor was involved as a board member for many years with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Harry Alookie will now be our mayor in Qikiqtarjuaq. There are also the newly acclaimed councillors who will now form the hamlet council and they are:

- Lizzie Natsiapik
- Jonah Keyootak
- Yukipa Audlakiak
- Geela Qiyuqtaq

They were acclaimed in our community because there were no other individuals running.

Nonetheless, I want to encourage everyone who has had interest in becoming a councillor to put their names forward, particularly our younger generations. Once they are eligible for voting or for running, they should put their names up for elections so they can also be involved in community administration. Being a councillor means you have quite a bit of work to undertake, as members here can attest to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 480 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Pond Inlet
Mayor and Council**

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice my congratulations as well to the newly elected mayor in my riding of Tununiq comprised of Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the newly elected mayor of Pond Inlet is Joshua Arreak. Mr. Arreak has served as a hamlet councillor in the past and has also served in the capacity of deputy mayor.

Mr. Speaker, I also congratulate the other individuals who put their names on the ballot for mayor. I have great expectations that the newly elected representatives of Pond Inlet will work towards attaining the needs of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Member's Statement 481 – 5(2):
Contaminated Land in Whale
Cove**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, everyone. To all of the candidates who were elected yesterday in Arviat, I share in your joy today. Further, the residents of Whale Cove are voting today. Please ensure you go out and vote. There was a blizzard yesterday.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, like your home community, Whale Cove is beautiful. Mr. Speaker, also like Baker Lake, Whale Cove is home to a large contaminated site. (interpretation) The municipal lands that are polluted are quite large and within the actual community centre area which was contaminated with diesel oil. They are aware and here is the energy corporation's report for 2015 regarding the fuel spill, which I will quote in English.

(interpretation ends) This is from the report that the QEC produced on contaminated sites inherited from the Northern Canada Power Corporation, and here are a couple of quotes regarding the Whale Cove contaminated site. "...the concern is with the old NCPC plant site at the center of the hamlet...contaminated soil totaling 18,650 M³ for a total of 21,050 M³ in the core area of Whale Cove." Mr. Speaker, a quote, the report also says that "The contamination in this area extends off site in all directions."

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about this site. It is in the core area. Whale Cove does have a downtown core and it is in the downtown core. There are houses in that area. There are workplaces. There is a community freezer. To complicate matters, on a seasonal basis the entire area floods, so water goes in different directions.

First I wrote to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Speaker. I thank them for their response. It turns out that it's not under their jurisdiction. I wrote to the Minister of Environment in January and I thank him for his response. In his response dated April 9, 2019, the Department of Environment said the Government of Nunavut will assess this site for human and ecological health risks.

(interpretation) I am happy to hear that, but I will be asking for more information from the Minister of Environment on how and when the work will be done to remediate that site within Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

**Member's Statement 482 – 5(2):
Cannabis Accessibility**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is regarding the issue of cannabis accessibility in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has arguably the highest rate of cannabis usage in the country. Given the remoteness of our communities, we also have potentially the highest costs of cannabis in the country.

Mr. Speaker, in response to my colleague Ms. Angnakak's questions just a few days ago, the Minister responsible for the Liquor and Cannabis Commission had indicated that the commission itself is barely making a dent in the illicit sales of cannabis in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, these illicit sales are fuelled by the black market, which continues to supply our communities with cannabis. Mr. Speaker, the black market is potentially syphoning out millions of dollars every year out of the territory.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since we passed the *Cannabis Act*, and we have seen very little movement on behalf of our government in this area. I am quite concerned, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's time that we do act now and prevent the black market from taking advantage of our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I will have further

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

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

**Member's Statement 483 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Gjoa Haven
Mayor and Council**

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and the community of Gjoa Haven.

I rise today just to congratulate our new municipal council members and these were acclaimed:

- Mr. David Siksik
- Mr. Matt Gee
- Ms. Miriam Aglukkaq
- Mr. Ralph Porter Sr.
- Ms. Salomie Avingaq Qitsualik
- Ms. Stephanie Autut
- Ms. Susie Hillier
- Mr. Wilfrid Bagley

They were acclaimed and also, we do have a new mayor and her name is Megan Porter. I would like to congratulate them on the election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 484 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Arviat Mayor
and Council**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are

all happy that the hamlets had elections in Nunavut.

I join in congratulating Bob Leonard, who got re-elected as mayor, and I will say the names of those who got elected to council:

- Joe Jr. Savikataaq
- Peter Alareak
- Gordy Kidlapik
- Elizabeth Issakiark
- Nathan Caskey
- Natasha Komakjuak
- Juanita King-Kuksuk
- Amanda Main

Congratulations for getting their seat in Arviat. I know they do a lot of work. We had a cabinet retreat in Arviat and they had a tour of Arviat and the municipal programs, the sports hall, and they were envious of Arviat having that facility.

The hamlet does a lot of hard work within Arviat to further develop the community of Arviat. I celebrate with all of you and I'm glad the residents of Arviat went to go vote even though there was bad weather. I say "good day" to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Member Ehaloak.

**Member's Statement 485 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Cambridge
Bay Mayor and Council**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, Nunavummiut and my constituents of Cambridge Bay.

As everyone is congratulating on our municipal elections, I would personally like to congratulate Pam Gross on her re-election as mayor and our council members:

- Derek Elias
- Sandi Gillis
- Jenna Kamingoak
- Susie Kemukton
- Angulalik Pedersen
- Candice Pedersen
- Savanna Moore, who is our youngest councilor this year, and
- Wilfred Wilcox.

I would also like to congratulate our Cambridge Bay Housing Association members:

- Chairperson Harry Maksagak
- Derek Elias
- Lyle Greenley
- Helen Koaha
- Mary-Rose Maksagak
- Susie Kemukton

I look forward to working with you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Member Joanasie.

**Member's Statement 486 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Mayors and
Councils of Kimmirut and Cape
Dorset**

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also talk about elections. I'm informing you of that beforehand.

Mr. Speaker, my two constituency communities of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset also held elections.

We congratulate the mayor-elect for Kimmirut, Maliktuk Lyta. However, the councillors were acclaimed and they are:

- Akulujuk Judea
- Itee Temela
- Former MLA for South Baffin Joe Arlooktoo

I would like to acknowledge the district education authority members who were also acclaimed in Kimmirut:

- Akeego Ikkidluak
- Akulujuk Judea
- Josie Lyta
- Maliktoo Lyta

Mr. Speaker, I will now turn to Cape Dorset. I would like to recognize the people who were acclaimed to the hamlet council. Acclaimed were:

- Aningmiuq Samayualie
- Claude Constantineau
- Ejesiak Ejesiak
- Jimmy Manning
- Juanisie Etidloi
- Robert Wortman

Also, the elected members of the district education authority in Cape Dorset are:

- Peter Derek Ottokie
- Rose Rowsell
- Wakta Joanasie
- Taqialuk Nuna
- Qavaroak Qatsiya
- Ejesiak Peter
- Ejesiak Ejesiak

Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset had no official candidates for the mayor's position, but I know that the hamlet council has the ability to appoint a mayor from amongst themselves or to request a by-election for the mayor for Cape Dorset. We anticipate that there will be a new mayor in the future for Cape Dorset.

Nonetheless, I want to voice my congratulations to the candidates who put their names up for election or who were past councillors of the hamlet and the district education authority. We thank them for doing their civic duty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. I apologize. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 487 – 5(2): Summer Events in Arctic Bay

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. Thank you very much. I wanted to announce that this past August, my constituency community of Arctic Bay was visited by the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, along with two cabinet ministers and the president of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

They travelled up to Arctic Bay to make an announcement about the two protected sites established recently, Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq. They were included in an IIBA agreement to establish the sites, including a substantial amount of funding. It wasn't just funding, but rather employment positions and

facilities that will be built in the High Arctic, and we are ecstatic about that possibility.

We also had a celebratory feast with the community residents, with the Prime Minister and the QIA president, who were warmly welcomed by our beloved elder, who is 99 years old. Qaapik welcomed them to her *qammaq* and brewed tea for them. She also had a conversation with the guests, and that was quite endearing to witness. The community became a bit larger due to the number of visitors who arrived for the celebration, so we were quite happy to welcome the visitors.

Furthermore, what is unforgettable here is the fact that quite a number of jobs and infrastructure will be constructed in the High Arctic, which seems to be the forgotten region of Nunavut. I wanted to voice my sincere appreciation to the (interpretation ends) Prime Minister (interpretation) and the QIA president for being able to travel up there. I also thank my fellow Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Health, Minister Hickes.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 572 – 5(2): Level of Health Care

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to an oral question asked by the Member for

Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet on October 23 regarding the level of health care.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes there are unintended consequences with the words we use.

Question:

The question that was asked to me on October 23, 2019 from the member from Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet asked the following oral questions in the legislature:

- Do nurses at health centres consider proper care of clients as their first priority?
- When there are institutional errors, sometimes most often health professionals cover it up. An institutional error is if somebody dies, they develop a professional curtain and behind that curtain they start discussing. (...) Are the Inuit professionals like the social workers at the community level...included when these health professionals have these meetings?

Response:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to supplement my response. The member recently raised a question regarding the level of health care and mistrust of health professionals. I truly appreciate that the member takes the well-being of her constituents to heart. However, when making comments like these, we need to balance the concerns with recognizing the integrity and dedication of health care professionals who practise in Nunavut. Like I mentioned, there may be

unintended consequences of words.

People who choose to take care of others at a time of need, such as our nurses, are caring human beings whose first priority is the care of patients. Furthermore, these health professionals are trained and required to abide by a strict code of conduct and ethical standards. Their licence to practise through their respective professional associations, such as the Registered Nurses of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, requires that they conduct themselves with integrity and do no harm to others. There are established complaint and disciplinary mechanisms in place to address issues of professional practice concerns.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the *Medical Profession Act* provides for a system by which to monitor licensing medical practitioners.

Also, as many of you are aware, the Department of Health's Office of Patient Relations investigates and reports back to the client if they feel they were mistreated in any way. The role of the Office of Patient Relations is to proactively address issues, concerns, and questions to educate and improve the patient experience.

The Department of Health has policies and processes in place to investigate all deaths and unexpected outcomes during patient care. All incidents of harm are investigated through a quality improvement team that monitors and investigates such occurrences. When human or system errors occur, it is the requirement that full disclosure has to take place in a timely manner to the patient and/or family. The disclosure

process is conducted with emotional support and in a manner to protect the privacy of the patient and their family. The patient and their family are told about what went wrong with the care and what is being done to improve things.

Mr. Speaker and members, health professionals do not shy away from adverse events. They investigate them in order to prevent the same thing from happening to another patient. This improves the care we provide and strengthens our system. Also, whenever there is any type of death, the coroner's office is automatically notified and has the ability to provide recommendations. The department responds to all recommendations from the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Mr. Speaker and members, the checks and balances on professional practice that we have here in Nunavut are in line with the rest of Canada. Reporting on human error or organizational error is mandatory and triggers an investigation. It is crucial that our constituents' concerns be heard and addressed. We must also be cautious that our comments do not engender distrust between patients and the health system. This could hurt not just our ability to recruit and retain health professionals, but it could also prevent people from seeking timely care.

Nunavummiut who had a negative experience with the health system should feel comfortable to express their concerns. They can do this through the health centre, the Office of Patient Relations, the appropriate professional association, the Department of Health's Professional Practice Unit, or through

my office directly.

Mr. Speaker and members, I am very proud of the care Nunavut's health professionals provide, often under challenging and unique circumstances. Across Nunavut we have many exceptional nurses and other health professionals who put their heart and soul into caring for Nunavummiut. It is very important that we recognize the honourable work they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

**Return to Oral Question 632 – 5(2):
Funding to Renovate Elder Care
Facility in Arviat**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The return to oral question asked by John Main, MLA for Arviat North-Whale Cove, concerning the elders centre construction in Arviat.

Question:

My first question to the minister, they were going to do upgrades or renovations to the elders facility. What is the current status on the plan to renovate it?

Response:

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has been working with the Department of Health to finalize the scope of work to be completed at the facility. Once the

building office permit is issued, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will proceed to tender by January 2020. The facility is older and the use has changed from a residential facility. Additional planning and work is required to assess permitting requirements and to prioritize renovations based on available budget. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Quttiktuq, Member Akeeagok.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a regular member I mentioned the QIA president. I want to recognize Pauloosie Juusipi Akeeagok while he is here in the House. Please give him a warm welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcome in your Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome my brother-in-law P.J. Akeeagok to the House. (interpretation) Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcome as you were recognized again. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu,
Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my nephew. I already recognized him because I know him. I would like to warmly welcome you, P.J., my dear nephew. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. It's obvious that he's warmly welcomed. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize P.J. Akeegok, President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I want to sincerely thank the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for being able to work for them for 18 years. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please feel welcome to the gallery on your recognition. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 650 – 5(2): Structure and Functions of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation, and they concern the topic of his department's structure and functions.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked questions in March of this year about the status of an ongoing test fishery project near my community of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, at that time I encouraged the government to consider transferring its Fisheries and Sealing Division from the Department of Environment to the Department of Economic Development. My colleague from Uqqummiut has also raised the same idea.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to note the government's announcement of September 9, 2019, which indicated that the cabinet has decided to undertake this transfer, and I applaud the government for being open to a good suggestion.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on the status of the transfer of responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you stated, on September 9 our Premier made an announcement. We have proceeded from this and we're planning for April 1, 2020. The division will be transferred to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. That's the plan that we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's announcement of September 9, 2019 also indicated that there will be "enhanced support for the viability of the sector's potential." Can the minister describe today what specific enhancements are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, the transfer is going to take place pending the budget approval on April 1, 2020. At this current time in the fiscal year, it still is within the Department of Environment. I don't want to deflect the necessary question, but as of right now the Department of Environment is overseeing the Fisheries and Sealing Division.

I want to assure the members that as we are leading towards April 1, we do have a transition plan and we are working towards bringing it forward to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. At this current fiscal year the day-to-day operations still continue in the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I tabled copies of the adopted resolutions that were passed at the recent annual general

meeting of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.

One of the resolutions addressed the issue of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's structure and functions by urging the department to assume responsibility for economic development officers, which are currently employed by municipalities. Mr. Speaker, what is the minister's position on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the member for questioning me on this wonderful topic. The community economic development officers are in every community and our department not just funds the salaries, but also funding is available through each of the communities through a grant or contribution. Through each of these communities, we ask that they have an economic plan and through that economic plan we can fund on different varieties.

I don't have specific programs or what is being offered in Gjoa Haven, but if it's a fish plant or fish marketing, those are the very things that I want to see at the local level being done. As our mandate calls for is that we diversify our economy. I think what our member has been advocating for is something that I very much support, support very wholly and something that's going to be enhanced once the Fisheries and Sealing Division comes to our department, which will allow more diversity within the economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 651 – 5(2): Sanikiluaq Water Supply

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I would first like to start by thanking the minister for taking the time to visit the community. I think it's very important that all ministers get out to the communities and see with their own eyes the challenges that communities face.

Mr. Speaker, when I last raised the issue of Sanikiluaq's water supply during our spring sitting, the minister indicated that a feasibility study was in its final stages and that the best option for the community is a desalination plant.

However, in a recent letter to me from October 24, the minister indicated that the department will be spending federal "Green Stream" funding on "source water projects...to improve water security in three communities: Grise Fiord, Iqaluit and Sanikiluaq."

Can the minister clarify if his department still intends to proceed with the desalination option, or is it going to first revisit the possibility of identifying a new source of drinking water for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to the people of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I did enjoy my visit to Sanikiluaq. I had the chance to visit everything. I even took home some rocks from the gravel pit. Very interesting forms of rocks are there. If you get a chance to visit, you should go.

In terms of the water issue, it's true our department has finalized the water study in that community and I will be more than happy to share a copy of that with my colleague. It's the same copy we shared with the municipality.

Mr. Speaker, the whole water salinization issue in Sanikiluaq is very real. I believe that no matter where we go and what water source we look at, we will still require desalination equipment for that community. That project will go ahead, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I think that when people go to Sanikiluaq and take the rocks, a lot of people do that, take the rocks out of our community. Maybe someday our islands will grow bigger there from the rise out of the water a little more.

Mr. Speaker, with that being said, again I'll ask a question I asked back in the spring. What kind of timeline is in place to move forward with this project to the point that the community will no longer

have to rely on reverse osmosis machines for their drinking water? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're working on that as we speak. We finally have the report finalized and we will follow these steps from that moving forward to put in water desalination equipment right to the water source instead of the way it is now in each house, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 652 – 5(2): Helping Income Assistance Clients Become Self-sufficient

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2016 the government tabled a document called “Reducing Dependence. Supporting Communities” which outlined a number of reforms to income assistance which were being considered.

I'm sorry that I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update in what success has been achieved in encouraging Nunavummiut to reduce their dependence on income assistance?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the income support there were 15 reforms that were on the report. I am pleased to report that the Department of Family Services has implemented 9 of the 15 reforms identified in the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In our recent discussions with the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, we learned some startling statistics about the number of high school dropouts. Currently youth are eligible to apply for income assistance at the age of 18, which is right about the age that they may consider dropping out of school. One of the income assistance reforms being considered by the government was to change the age of eligibility for income assistance to 19.

Can the minister clarify if the government will be changing the age of eligibility to apply for income assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister for Family Services is working on a number of initiatives on this assistance reform, and I would not like to say whether we are doing it or not. I haven't gotten to that

level of detail where I got briefed on, whether we're working specifically on increasing the age limit, but it's something that's being considered right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The "Reducing Dependency" report identifies one of the key barriers to stopping people from moving off income assistance is that they don't often have the right education to fill the jobs available.

Can the minister describe what specific challenges are faced when trying to encourage and support income assistance clients to become adult learners and to improve their options to get employment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, there are 9 of the 15 recommendations that were done. When it comes to changing the eligibility to 19 and for the workers, as part of the status under the department, it's under review and it's one of the items that we need to do some socio-economic impact analyses. That's what's required before we as government can determine for that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Question 653 – 5(2): Donation of Food

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. My questions are for the Minister of Health, who has responsibility for the *Donation of Food Act*.

As the minister is undoubtedly aware, an incident recently took place in Pangnirtung where a large quantity of food was discarded at the community landfill by one of our local retailers. It is due to the fact that they had lost power at that time in Pangnirtung. Many of the residents of Pangnirtung were understandably upset at this. Not only for the residents of Pangnirtung, but it is unacceptable when food is discarded without being donated, especially when food is very expensive.

I wrote a letter to the officials at the North West Company's headquarters. I suggested that they inform the people first and invite them to take the foods because if they spoil, then it's brought to the garbage. Inuit have a longstanding tradition of giving food away and I think that the retail outlets need more understanding of Inuit culture. They should be more aware of the ways they can assist the community.

I would like to ask the minister about the *Donation of Food Act*. It provides legal protection for individuals and organizations wanting to donate food. What does the Department of Health do in promoting the legislation within communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just learned about that event this morning and I was shocked at some

of the pictures on the volume of food that was brought to the dump. I know that when I did read the article, I believe the store manager acknowledged that there was a real breakdown in the communication on how that food could have been dispersed to people, especially people who have such high needs of food security.

Mr. Speaker, again, this is something that I am somewhat familiar with, but I haven't had a lot of interaction with this legislation. Upon learning it this morning, I did endeavour myself to learn a little bit more and I haven't had a chance to do the research on it to be able to fully respond to the member's question. I will get back to the member with more details on it and I apologize, but I will do further research into that legislation to find out exactly what limits or what parameters that food could be dispersed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for clearly indicating that the government and the Department of Health need to do more research. We do know that there are federal regulations for safe food handling practices. I would like to ask the minister about the federal legislation that provides protection against food that has spoiled or is damaged, but my question is if the government can look at the legislation to make sure that Nunavummiut are protected further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I reacquaint myself with this legislation, I will look it over and to see if any gaps are recognized and, if there are, I will consult with my officials on any necessary steps after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to ask this question. We all know that our communities aren't that big. Our community is small and nobody is a stranger in our community. At the community level we all face challenges, such as poverty, and we notice people with food insecurity. There is help within the community for people facing poverty or hunger.

I would like to ask this question. The minister indicated that he would do further research with the federal government, but the government is also responsible for assessing poverty. The Department of Family Services is responsible for that. Can he collaborate with the Department of Family Services so that they can set up programs that are community-friendly and to give them better options? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely. I know my officials are listening right now and I'll make sure that there's some follow-up within the departments, but I would also like to invite the member to come and talk to me. Maybe she can help with the vision that she sees or identify some programs

or practices that would fulfill some of the concerns that the member raised. I would be very interested to hear some ideas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 654 – 5(2): Supporting the Inuit Language

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

Mr. Speaker, it seems that Nunavummiut are always straining to hear our language spoken. Since the creation of Nunavut, we have waited for the Inuit language to be the dominant language of our territory.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update this House on what success the government has achieved in making the Inuit language more visible across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Languages, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Netsilik for his question. Mr. Speaker, although the Department of Culture and Heritage deals with linguistic issues, we defer to the Department of Education when it comes to curriculum resources.

To date there has been a large number of literacy resources for Titiqqiriniq that were developed over the years, but we want to see more development to ensure

we have greater language courses made available. Even if we don't share the same dialect, we can still deal with the best practices when it comes to delivery.

With regard to the initiative that the Department of Culture and Heritage has undertaken, specifically *Uqausivut 2.0*, and in following that model, there are four areas that are the pillars, including language of learning. The other pillars are language services, language revitalization, and language of work.

This report will be placed with our government plans, and it is set up with the regional arrangements we already follow, including how the Department of Education is attempting to incorporate this curriculum we are discussing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are still many Nunavummiut who speak mostly in their mother tongue of Inuktitut. Most elders still know and speak the language of their parents. This is not always the case for their children and more and more often their grandchildren are unable to communicate in their mother tongue.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister be tabling his annual report on government activities, results, and resources used in achieving the objectives of section 15 of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* before this sitting ends? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, even if we have different dialects, I am encouraging everyone everywhere, regardless of your community, to use your language and to note that different dialects are used and to pay attention to how it is understood so that we can clearly understand one another. As an example, my colleague is asking a question as someone coming from the Kitikmeot region, while I respond in the South Baffin dialect. We should be proud of being able to do that. We can also ensure we use our language on more occasions. I wanted to encourage my colleague to continue.

However, with respect to his question about the report prepared by the Department of Culture and Heritage with respect to the *Official Languages Act*, to date the report is in development, but the requirement to have it in all four languages is causing some delays. At this time I can't ascertain if I will be able to present that report before the end of our session, but I anticipate the completion of the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's obvious the minister has worked on language issues. My last question touches upon my first question.

Mr. Speaker, as a new territory we must renew our support for our language. We must work to get it back and to make it strong before it is forgotten completely.

Mr. Speaker, what is the government's plan to ensure that the Inuit language is taught, used, promoted, and supported throughout Nunavut, from our education system to our government offices and in our daily lives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to languages, our government has used various methods to try to incorporate it and I can state that... Well, to use the Teacher Education Program as an example, we want to include linguistic training. I'm just using that as an example.

However, I want to remind the member and some Nunavummiut that even though Inuit now use a writing system, we know that Inuit didn't have a writing system in the past, as our language is oral. Further, based on what our elders have passed on, it was only in the last century that Inuit learned a writing system. Most of our knowledge has been passed down orally and disseminated. It is only when Inuktitut became a written language that development could occur in the schools and further, to use the written system in our offices and service provision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 655 – 5(2): Access to Information and Protection of Privacy

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government

Services.

Mr. Speaker, as yesterday was municipal election day across the territory, I have some questions for the minister concerning the Government of Nunavut's response to our recent standing committee report in respect to the issue of the application of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to municipalities.

The government's response is in English, so I'll say it in English. (interpretation ends) "There is no firm timeline to bring municipalities under the legislation as public bodies. The plan is for Community and Government Services to work with municipalities to build the capacity necessary to be brought under the Act on a timeline that works for them." (interpretation) That's the response that was provided.

Can the minister describe what specific training initiatives his department is currently undertaking in this area?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This again depends on the correspondence or an initiative the hamlet is forwarding where it may be subject to an ATIPP request related to the development of bylaws that Mr. Quassa asked about is something I am grateful to hear.

Yes, with regard to that matter, it came into force in 2017. However, the hamlet didn't have any preparations for the ATIPP requests, so that's why the plan

didn't move forward, and the computers that would house the software were still not available. There are more items to prepare first and this is the reason for the delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, I am aware of the complexity of the ATIPP process, as it is very convoluted. As an example, if any person in the communities goes to the board offices to try to get a request for information, they will be denied because the employees haven't received the training for this requirement yet. They would not be able to comply, even if an access to information request was submitted.

Can the minister describe the extent to which the Nunavut Association of Municipalities has been involved in facilitating training for municipal employees? I hope that makes sense.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlets were initially included within the Act, but the regulations were not including the hamlets as a party. Therefore, even if a resident attempted to do an access to information request under the ATIPP Act, the hamlet would not be subject to this request. Nonetheless, as we move forward in completing the regulations and dealing with digital systems such as computers and servers with firewalls that block access are now required, and how to allow certain access requests to

proceed are the questions we face.

Since the computers don't have the capability yet, we are working with Nunavut Association of Municipalities. By working with the municipal body, we are deliberating on resolutions to these challenges to determine our course of action and a path forward to open up that avenue and how we could provide training on that if this was added. It would include the operational requirements. Yes, we are working closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and communications are ongoing on where the future path is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for elaborating the details included in this area. In 2017 the Act was being amended to include the hamlets under the legislation. That was identified already.

Now, I'll ask my last question in English. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate which municipalities are most likely to be in a position to be brought under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* within the next five years? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As these details are in the process of finalization and with the ongoing discussions here, we can't prioritize which communities will be brought under the Act first since

we have not reached that stage yet. Upon reaching that level, we would start preparing ways to open up the requirements and how best to ensure we implement this.

We will be able to discuss it at that time, but at this point the training body, or the (interpretation ends) Municipal Training Organization, (interpretation) is whom we are working with and if the hamlets require training on the ATIPP process, we are also working with the various government departments such as EIA. We are working on that right now. I am confident that I can provide the information to my colleague on which communities will be first once I have it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 656 – 5(2): Update on Contaminated Site in Whale Cove

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

As I mentioned earlier during members' statements, the contaminated land in the middle of the community of Whale Cove is rather large. I wrote the minister a letter and I thank him for his response. He said that the Department of Environment was going to do an assessment to see if it was hazardous to people; in English, (interpretation ends) human health risk assessment.

(interpretation) My first question is: to date, how has the Department of Environment conducted the study and what were the results? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for his question. The land in Whale Cove was assessed this past summer, but the report is still not completed. In February 2020 the report on the assessment will be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I will look forward to the report that is set to be completed in February 2020, but maybe the minister has been informed of the details, especially whether or not there is a risk to humans.

(interpretation ends) My question, just to restate it and make sure it's clear, is: is the minister aware of what will be in that report regarding whether or not the contaminated site is a risk to human health? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know exactly what will be in the report, but I can inform the member stuff that was done. They bore eight boreholes into the contaminated site and took soil samples and those soil samples will be tested for these chemicals: benzene, I hope I get this one right, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, and hydrocarbons. These boreholes that were bored in there are also being used now to

take water samples from there as time goes on. Once we get the results back of the levels of these chemicals that are there, we will have a better understanding of the health hazards for this contaminated lot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. I'll have a better understanding once the report is complete. However, in the minister's letter it states that (interpretation ends) the question of who is ultimately liable for costs associated with remediation of the Whale Cove Power Plant is complicated.

(interpretation) If I understood correctly, the land was contaminated even before Nunavut was created, when we were still part of the NWT. It has been contaminated since then to today. Once they start remediating it, who will be liable for the costs of the remediation? Does the minister have the information I'm asking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contaminated land was assessed by the Department of Environment. We are aware that the Department of Environment will not pay for the remediation of the site, but they have stated that it needs to be remediated. There will be collaboration on who will clean it up and who will pay for it. I'll mention the departments: the Department of Environment, the Qulliq

Energy Corporation, (interpretation ends) the Department of Community and Government Services, Finance, and Justice. (interpretation) They will work together to see who would pay for the remediation and those departments would identify who is going to pay for the cleanup of the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 657 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Activities

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday of last week the minister tabled her response to our standing committee's report on its recent televised hearing on the QEC's annual report and business plan. A number of things in the minister's response have caught my attention, so I'm going to highlight them.

Mr. Speaker, I was very interested to learn that the Qulliq Energy Corporation and a number of GN departments are actively considering options concerning the government's Petroleum Products Division, including the option of making it a subsidiary entity of the QEC. The minister's response also indicated that a report on the various options will be completed by March 31, 2020.

Will the minister be providing a copy of this report to the standing committee for our consideration and input before any

final decisions are made on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) *Koana*, Ms. Angnakak, for your question. Currently, as you stated, we are working on the report. Unfortunately I cannot tell you whether or not the document will be forwarded to the standing committee for review, as we haven't even looked at it yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that you would be able to table it. It's something of an interest to the standing committee. We would like to see transparency as well.

As the minister will recall, another major issue that came up during our standing committee's televised hearing was the issue of alternative energy. In the minister's response, she indicated that the corporation "remains engaged with counterparts across the country on emerging technologies such as Small Modular Reactors," which use nuclear energy to provide power.

Can the minister describe some of the specific work that the QEC has been undertaking to plan for the possible use of nuclear energy in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Ms. Angnakak, for your question. Unfortunately I don't have that level of detail of information that you're looking for, but I can check into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the minister does have some more information; it might be coming up again in another question.

As the minister will also recall, another major issue that came up during our standing committee's televised hearing was the issue of human resources management at the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I want to take this opportunity to let the minister know that I have been hearing concerns from constituents about the morale at the corporation. Some people are really not happy working there, so she may want to look into that issue herself.

Mr. Speaker, one of the standing committee's recommendations was that the QEC make its corporate and human resources policies publicly available through posting on its website. However, the minister's response indicated that "internal corporate policies" will be exempt from this disclosure. Can the minister clarify which of the QEC's policies fall under this category? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't have the level of

information that you're looking for with me, but I can check into it and I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 658 – 5(2): Cannabis Accessibility

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had alluded to in my member's statement, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, and I will be following up on my questions posed to the minister on October 26, 2018 regarding the over-the-counter sales of cannabis.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since cannabis became legal in Canada and close to a year and a half since this Assembly passed our own *Cannabis Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate why the federal government legalized cannabis and that's to keep cannabis out of the hands of youth, remove sales from the black market, and regulate cannabis to prevent lacing with harmful substances. However, in order for the strategy to work, people must have reasonable access to the product.

Last year when I asked the minister to provide a timeline of when the government will expand the range of options available to Nunavummiut, which may include over-the-counter sales of cannabis, the minister's response was "There are still a number of regulations and fine-tuning to go through." The minister also indicated

that he's not anticipating anything within the next six months or so, but would anticipate inside of a year that the minister would know exactly with specific timelines on where the government is going.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year and I would like to ask again: when will the government be expanding the availability of cannabis to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hicke.

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm having a little *déjà vu* from last week.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize and as I did state last week, I firmly believe that we need to have retail sales outlets to actually make a dent into the illicit market. Until we get to that point, we're not going to put even a dent into the dent, in my opinion. From the end of March until now we have only collected approximately \$12,000 in revenue from cannabis sales.

We recognize it, and I'm not going into a bunch of excuses, but I can assure the member, as I did another member last week, I have provided very strong direction. It's a very common topic that I bring up with my officials and there is a lot of work being done with it. I don't have a firm timeline right now, but I can assure members that this work is being done as we sit here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member

Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to point out the fact that every jurisdiction in Canada has already produced regulations on cannabis sales and consumption, including Yukon, which has 14 pages of regulations on private and public sales and consumption of cannabis, as well as the Northwest Territories, which has six pages of regulations for the public sales of cannabis.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: what is the holdup? What specific regulations still have to be ironed out and finalized before they are completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Hicke

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's line of questioning on this. It's a real issue. There are unsafe materials being put in illicit black market cannabis.

I will say, to give an example, Nunavut is unique. Our legislation gave an opportunity for municipalities and hamlets to have a say on whether cannabis would be sold in their community and how the licensing process would work. We are different. Nunavut has its own unique needs and our own unique relationships that we have our hamlets and municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to get this done tomorrow, but I also want to make sure it's done properly. My entire goal and I know the staff's goal in these regulations is to make sure it's done right so we don't have to keep going

back and forth and/or putting unforeseen challenges in front of our potential retailers or licensees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we passed the *Cannabis Act*, I believe we did not give the communities a say on whether or not they can sell cannabis. I believe that it states in there that they are not allowed to prohibit the sale of cannabis in the communities. However, it did mention that there would be some consultations.

With that being said, I believe that the status quo is unacceptable. Right now Nunavut is reliant on the black market to supply cannabis sales in the territory. With the amount of cannabis consumption in the territory and the fact that all that money is being funnelled out or siphoned out by the black market, I find that unacceptable.

I believe that every other jurisdiction was able to figure this out but us. I believe it's time that our government starts putting merit to its words. I'm sorry; I forget my wording. I believe it's time for the government to stand up and get some work done on this front and start producing regulations that will allow the private market or the public sector to step up and open up some alternative options, including over-the-counter sales. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question there. Thank you.

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

Question 659 – 5(2): Funding for Recreational Facilities

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will direct my question to the Minister of Education.

(interpretation) Now, I wonder if the number of students is followed when gymnasiums are constructed in Nunavut. I would like to know if the number of students is used to determine if they will get a full-sized gymnasium or a small one. Is there a policy that is followed when facilities are constructed? That's my first question for the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Tununiq for the question. If there is an addition needed to the schools, then the utilization rate of the school is looked at. We don't identify the size of the gymnasium when we're constructing new schools or making additions or renovations to existing schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past they used to have a methodology as to when a school is being built, they had a number of students that attend the school, they were

able to build full-sized gyms, and I understand now that criteria is no longer being used by the Department of Education. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. As far as I know, we don't have criteria on specifying when a full-sized gym would be built in a school. As far as I know, it is based on, if we're building a new school, we look at the overall number of students and the educational space requirements for that. As for specifically to the gymnasium size, I stand to be corrected, though. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Member Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. There are about 1,700 people, but the population in Pond Inlet is about 1,700 and there are almost 300 students attending the high school, and the gym is not a full-sized gym. How would the district education authority go about asking the department to put an addition to the gymnasium at the high school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that the district education authority send a letter to that effect and we would consider it. Given that we do have huge capital needs across the territory, not just within education but other areas as well, we will have to look at what business case can be made about building or replacing

the gymnasium with a full-sized gym. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, you will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Written Questions. Continuing on. Returns to Written Questions. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Hickes.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 002 – 5(2): Mr. George Hickes

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the Assembly's discussions last week with respect to long-term care facilities in the territory, I thought it would be a good opportunity to take a step back and reflect on the Commissioner's Opening Address, which set the tone and mandate of the Fifth Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, when this Assembly took office, we met as a caucus of representatives for every community in Nunavut to discuss the priority items that we would address over our four-year term.

As the Commissioner rightly stated in her opening address, "The priorities of each government are anchored in the current realities of Nunavut. Our challenges are complex and difficult to resolve, and many of our opportunities as a territory are long term in nature. Each Assembly focuses on its priorities on the progress it intends to make during its term."

It's in this spirit that I ask all members to

refocus their attention to one of the biggest priorities that we set out to address as an Assembly and, that is, to develop long-term care facilities in Nunavut that provide a high level of care so that we can no longer have to send our beloved elders away from their families and communities.

Mr. Speaker and members, tomorrow will mark two years since we were elected to represent our constituencies. Let's take a brief look back to where we started as an Assembly and understand our realities today and continue the direction forward.

Mr. Speaker, our desire to work with partners to develop and deliver in-territory elder care infrastructure projects was explicit from the start. The Commissioner noted in her speech and again I'll quote, "Our government will invest with partners in infrastructure that enhances the well-being of individuals and communities, including facilities for elder care and addictions in the territory."

I want to highlight the mention of investing with partners in infrastructure in this particular commitment and understand where we were coming from when we set this priority. At that point in time two communities were in the process of developing unsolicited proposals for elder care facilities, Iqaluit and Kugluktuk. I use the term "unsolicited" because at the time the government had not put out a request for proposals with a defined number of beds and facility design needs.

Iqaluit's Sailivik Society had been active since 2016 at that point and was moving forward quickly with the concept for a

multi-level of care facility, including long-term care beds, dementia care beds, assisted living accommodations, hospice and elders' programs and services, and even an Inuktitut daycare.

Sailivik was making progress on securing the basic elements of an infrastructure project. They had secured a piece of land through the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association near the breakwater and had a verbal agreement with the NCC Investment Group to build the facility.

To my recollection, there were some issues with the lot having a sewer line through its property, which would cost upwards of \$3 million to move. Sailivik then worked with the city to identify an alternate, undeveloped lot along the Road to Nowhere by Dead Dog Lake. Nevertheless, the society was moving forward with plans to construct a facility with no capital request from the Government of Nunavut. Rather it would seek out a fee-for-service contract with the Government of Nunavut to provide care to the elders residing in that facility.

The society presented its business plan and executive summary to the Department of Health in the summer of 2017. Present at that meeting were myself as the health minister of the day and senior health officials, along with the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu as chair of the Sailivik Society and members of their board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely do not wish to oversimplify or undervalue the work that Sailivik had put forward in this business plan at the time, but it is important to note that building a high-level elder care

facility requires very specialized building designs and standards, not to mention developing a service delivery model that aligns with the facility's needs and meets national accreditation standards for elder care. Before issuing a fee-for-service contract, the government has to make sure that every one of those conditions and many more that I did not mention, such as building insurance and liability insurance for employees, are addressed in the project proposal.

At this meeting the Department of Health raised some of the additional details that would need to be addressed before our government could enter into a contract with the society. Health offered its lead in territorial home and community care, who has experience with developing elder care centres in the north, who worked with the society on these details.

It should also be mentioned that despite the comments made last week by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut that they "presented an option where the government didn't even have to come up with any capital dollars" upon its submission to Health, the chair of the society noted that it would require a multi-million dollar commitment from the Government of Nunavut to advance this project. This substantially changed the position from a no cost for construction to a project that would require a significant capital commitment from government.

Mr. Speaker, this is where the timeline for this project becomes difficult for me to speak to. As everyone in the Assembly is aware, our general election occurred that fall and I was not re-elected into cabinet at that time. What

efforts were made at the departmental level to prioritize this project are not known to me as I was not the health minister at that time.

I have asked my departmental staff to look into what communication the department had with the society after my term as minister was up. To our knowledge, the department has not received any further communication from Sailivik since their business plan proposal on June 30, 2017 nor has the society been in good standing with legal registries since July 2017.

Mr. Speaker, in the context of Sailivik's proposal, it is evident that the vision set out in the opening address to, and again I quote, "invest with partners in infrastructure, including facilities for elder care" has proven to be difficult. Mr. Speaker and members, nevertheless, we have continued to work with other interested partners to deliver this critical infrastructure in-territory.

Kugluktuk's hamlet has actively pursued a privately built long-term care facility for a number of years and in 2017 presented an unsolicited proposal for its building based on a fee-for-service arrangement with the Government of Nunavut. Senior officials from Health, again including myself as health minister, met with the hamlet's project team to discuss this initial proposal.

Mr. Speaker, when I left my position in October 2017 these discussions were still underway. Again, I cannot speak to the period in which I was not minister and whether these discussions continued or were put on hold. However, I can speak to when I resumed as health minister in September 2018. Within a

month, in October 2018, our government continued its discussions with Kugluktuk to advance their project.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, the details required to build and service a long-term care facility are complex, multi-layered, and highly regulated. As an example, the number of requirements to follow national regulations for an accredited long-term care facility is about 600 pages long. Each of these must be addressed and accounted for before the Government of Nunavut can enter into a service contract and all must be met within three years of opening.

Likewise, securing liability and facility insurance is required. As we know from our experience with insuring government owned and operated facilities, such as schools, it is becoming increasingly more difficult and expensive to secure insurance in Nunavut. This is even more challenging when it comes to a privately run elder care facility. Despite these challenges, our government has committed to the task set out in our opening address to work with partners in elder care infrastructure development and continues to provide guidance and assistance on their project proposal.

Mr. Speaker, our discussions with Iqaluit and Kugluktuk did not prevent our government from also pursuing other options for providing long-term care in the territory. As previously mentioned, Iqaluit and Kugluktuk were unsolicited proposals from private partners. Our government has also sought out ways to meet the goal stated in the opening address to find creative and willing partners to address our most critical infrastructure needs. It is in this spirit that our government moved forward

with engaging Partnerships BC to help provide expert advice on the procurement of complex capital projects in long-term care.

As the Assembly may recall, Partnerships BC was also the lead in the planning and procurement phases of the Iqaluit international P3 project. By engaging Partnerships BC in this process, they would be able to examine procurement options, labour and workforce requirements, contracting in construction, and viability of public-private partnerships, otherwise known as P3s, or interest in the elder care industry to operate in Nunavut and present options to the government on constructing long-term care facilities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker and members, this work directly aligns with the goals in the opening address to, again I quote, “operate efficiently, effectively, and responsibly and ensure that the public service operates in a fiscally responsible manner that supports action on these priorities and meets the needs of Nunavummiut.”

Mr. Speaker, many Members of this House have requested that we table this report. The detailed nature of this report, however, could compromise the government’s ability to receive competitive bids on the market for any facility we decide to build, not to mention that all options put forward in it have not been agreed to by cabinet, rather the Partnerships BC report helps inform our decisions but does not obligate us to follow its recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, too many of our people are

sent out of Nunavut for treatment or ongoing care that could be provided in the territory. Our government will enhance the health care services that are available in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, this statement in our opening address underpins the issue we face in Nunavut today with respect to caring for our elders with complex needs. Bringing our elders home is the goal of this government and of this Assembly. It is with this goal in mind that our government is moving forward to develop long-term care facilities that can meet the existing need for higher level elder care in-territory.

According to our report titled *Continuing Care in Nunavut 2015-2035*, without level 4 and level 5 beds, these are beds for elders with complex needs requiring 16 to 24 hours per day supervision and care, and those diagnosed with dementia, we will be forced to continue sending our elders outside of the territory to facilities that offer these services.

The Department of Health estimates that 156 total long-term care beds will be needed by 2035 to address long-term care needs in Nunavut. As I had noted to the standing committee during my capital estimates appearance as Minister of Finance in September, we conducted a market sounding through the Partnerships BC exercise to gauge whether there would be interest in a public-private partnership to build and operate these facilities.

Mr. Speaker and members, Partnerships BC conducted interviews with 15 construction contractors and service delivery entities in the spring of 2019.

Unfortunately there was less than favourable interest from industry in providing care in Nunavut. The risks when caring for elders are significant and even large companies that provide seniors care across Canada are hesitant to take on those same risks here. This means that services may need to be provided by in-territory organizations.

That's why we engaged a consultant in the spring of 2019 to help us prepare design-build RFP packages to issue to the market once funding approvals were completed for: one, 24-bed facility in the Kivalliq; two, one or more facilities in Iqaluit to accommodate up to 108 beds; and three, a Kitikmeot facility subject to the outcomes of the negotiations with the Kugluktuk group.

Mr. Speaker, these bed counts align with projected needs in all three regions and across the territory. The intent is to deliver these centres in phases, phase 1 being Rankin Inlet and phase 2 being Kitikmeot and Iqaluit. We are anticipating completion of the Iqaluit business case within the next three to four months and also hope to reach a decision on the Kugluktuk negotiations within that same time frame. This allows the government to balance the need to immediately address long-term care needs with our growing fiscal pressures.

To put it plainly, we are starting with a facility in Rankin Inlet because we believe it is achievable soonest. There are several advantages to locate this facility in Rankin Inlet:

- It has a regional health care centre nearby that is staffed with doctors and nurses and provides a higher level of health services;

- The airport serves all Kivalliq communities and offers daily flights to southern centres, making it more convenient and economical for family visits;
- The availability of staff and student housing in the community for recruiting new staff and trainees; and
- Support from the Kivalliq communities to locate the facility in Rankin Inlet, as per the resolution passed at the Kivalliq Mayors' Meeting in October of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I must pause here for a moment because our timeline has now brought us to the present.

As members know, last week the Department of Health was set to present its capital estimates to discuss projects for the 2020-21 fiscal year. When Health initially appeared at the standing committee in late September, we advised them that at that time we were not prepared to bring forward a long-term care budget item until we could finalize a business plan for it, but note that one could be expected in the coming weeks. As an interim measure, Health and Finance would set aside room in the capital estimates to allow for a late addition of this project.

On October 9 I sent a letter to the standing committee to provide the necessary information to outline the capital request for the Rankin Inlet long-term care facility. Suffice it to say, I was shocked that regular members would take the extraordinary move to delay consideration of the health budget because of this project. The standing committee had the opportunity to call the Department of Health before its committee to get a detailed breakdown

of this project in-camera so that important contract details could be shared openly and freely without fear of jeopardizing contractual or funding commitments. It did not do that.

In fact not a single question about our capital estimates was asked between October 9 and our appearance at Committee of the Whole on October 24. Instead, members chose to ask in question period the next day the very questions that could have been answered in those committees. I sincerely hope that this was not merely a political grandstanding, but now our health budget is left to the waning few hours left of session for consideration, where less time can be devoted to going over the finer details of this project and other priority projects like the addictions and trauma treatment centre.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most damaging is the misconception spread by several regular members that building a long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet will result in the closure of other existing facilities. Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear on this matter. Nowhere in our capital budget does it state we are opening one facility at the expense of another. We want to build facilities, not close them.

The member for Arviat-Whale Cove said in question period last Friday that as part of their capital briefing it stated that new long-term care facilities would render existing facilities "redundant from a capacity requirement perspective." That's correct, Mr. Speaker, but he did fail to read aloud the next two sentences, which clearly state, "The GN will have the option of closing, repurposing, or continuing to operate these facilities."

One of the key considerations relating to the potential closure of the facility is the impact of potential job losses in those communities.

Mr. Speaker, we still need our existing elder care facilities. We need those elder care spaces. That said, as with all capital planning processes, it is the responsibility of any government to consider the repurposing of facilities when new ones become operational.

Mr. Speaker and members, we have other health care delivery priorities like residential mental health facilities and birthing centres that could use a repurposed space to operate and keep jobs in the community. That's our duty as government to make sure that we're making effective, efficient, and responsible operating decisions, as the Commissioner tasked us to do in her opening address, but it is both premature and presumptuous to make those assumptions, Mr. Speaker. Those are decisions of future governments and Assemblies, not ours.

Let me be clear: we need every single elder care bed currently available in the territory and more. Let me state once again for the record: our government is not closing any elder care homes in Nunavut. To suggest otherwise...

>> *Applause*

To suggest otherwise puts fear in the hearts and minds of our elders and communities. We want to bring our elders home now.

Mr. Speaker, while speaking to the motion to delay our budget, the Member for Amittuq spoke to the urgency of

meeting our elders' needs closer to home. He stated, "In your opening comments you stated that in 2023 this would be completed. How many elders are waiting down there will pass away during that time?" Whether the member intended to or not, his statement actually supports exactly what we're trying to do and say. We don't have time to spare, Mr. Speaker. That's why it's essential that we get moving on constructing an elder care facility in Rankin Inlet.

I'll remind the House of the commitment of this Assembly as noted in the opening address. "Our government values our elders and is making it a priority to meet more of their needs in the territory. Too many of our people are sent out of Nunavut for treatment or ongoing care that could be provided in the territory. Our government will enhance the health care services that are available in the territory."

Mr. Speaker, we're trying to do what regular members, elders, and Nunavummiut have tasked us to do: build long-term care facilities in Nunavut. We want them to come home and be with their families and community here in Nunavut. We want to be able to offer the health care services that Nunavummiut need and expect. We want to achieve the bold and positive vision for our territory that the Commissioner described in her opening address.

I appreciate the members' passion for this issue. I really do. This cabinet is equally passionate and equally dedicated to our elders. That's why we have put forward this plan to ensure we meet their needs, bring them home, keep families together, increase community capacity,

and follow through with our mandate. We want to fulfill our commitments in *Turaaqtavut*, but most of all, Mr. Speaker and all members, we want to do that working together as an Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on with the orders of the day. Item 10. Petitions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Member Angnakak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 007 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 615 residents of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

Petition 008 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 120 of my constituents in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the

highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Petition 009 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 85 members of the Inuksuk High School community here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Petition 010 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition on the same subject that my colleague spoke to, which is the minimum wage in Nunavut, and they request that the minimum wage be increased so that low-income earners can

benefit financially.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Member for Tununiq, Member Qamaniq.

Petition 011 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 140 of my constituents in Pond Inlet. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Petition 012 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 90 residents of Igloolik. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of residents of my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Petition 013 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 30 of my constituents in Netsilik. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Petition 014 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have the honour today to present a petition that has been signed by a number of my constituents in Sanikiluaq. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Petitions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

Petition 015 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by approximately 35 of my constituents in Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, the petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of Nunavut to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Petition 016 – 5(2): Minimum Wage

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have the honour today of presenting a petition that has been signed by some constituents in my community of Pangnirtung. The petition recognizes that our territory has the highest cost of living in the country and calls on the Government of [Nunavut] to increase the minimum wage in the jurisdiction to a living wage over the next two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today on behalf of my constituents of Pangnirtung. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Continuing on. Responses to Petitions. Continuing on. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

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

Committee Report 020 – 5(2): Report on the Review of the 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Review of the 2019 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners*.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on this report from September 25 to 26, 2019.

(interpretation) The standing committee's hearing was held in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and was televised live across the territory. The hearing was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*See Appendix for full text of Committee Report 20 – 5(2).

(interpretation ends) The standing committee notes its appreciation to the staff of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada as well as witnesses from the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's report contains five sets of formal recommendations, which cover five thematic areas, including:

- Government of Nunavut Action Plans;
- Departmental collaboration;
- Supports for High School Students;
- Supports for Adult Learners; and
- Commitments made by the Government of Nunavut witnesses.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I wish to note for the record that the standing committee is requesting that the government provide a comprehensive response to this report, pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

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

Speaker: The member has moved that the report of the standing committee be received by the House and entered into the record as read. (interpretation) Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement.

(interpretation) Continuing on with the orders of the day. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akeeagok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 209 – 5(2): 2018-2019 Annual Report on Tourism

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am pleased to table the 2018-19 Annual Report on Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Notices of Motions. Continuing on. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – Mental Health Act – Notice

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, that Bill 36, *Mental Health Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Bill 37 – Legislation Act – Notice

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, that Bill 37,

Legislation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Second Reading of Bills. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Bills 8, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 50 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:05 and Committee resumed at 16:28*

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 8, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the 2020-21 capital appropriations for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and, if time permits, the Department of Education.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we first start with Bill 30?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Akeegok: do you have witnesses that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Chairman, yes, please.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have the witnesses enter the Chamber?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. For the record, Minister Akeegok, if you could please reintroduce your witnesses. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. To my left is Bernie MacIsaac, Deputy Minister, and to my right is John Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Welcome to your officials. Yesterday we left off, the opening comments were done on both sides, the minister's side and the committee's side, and the next item will be to go into any comments on the opening comments.

Are there any general comments at this time? If not, we will go to your main estimates on your capital estimates on page K-3, and we're doing the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Everything is on the one page, so any questions members may have this is the time to do it.

I will read the budget before I ask about questions. It's Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,035,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, good evening, I should say, minister, Mr. MacIsaac, and Mr. Hawkins.

I only have a few questions and before I get into the specific questions, I have a request for next year's substantiation sheets or the departmental requests.

When I look at EDT's capital projects, the first thing that jumped out on me was part C, the incremental O&M costs associated with these capital projects and specifically that they're all left blank. I know that they're not crucial to whether or not we are passing these capital requests, but I would just like to point out that if departments do not include this additional information, such as power consumption for example, there will never be any incentive for departments to incorporate renewable energy systems or energy efficiency

initiatives in the capital substantiations.

My first request would be that next year and going forward that the minister will ensure to incorporate that incremental cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the [member] for the question. Yes, I will commit to providing more information when it comes to the substantiation sheets, in particular section C. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. I would like to move to my next question. I would like to thank the minister for making the adjustments to the Iqaluit airport parking lot. I did notice that there was an increase in spacing and it is quite beneficial to everyone that uses those parking lots. I would like to thank the minister for that.

There is another issue relating to the parking lot that I did want to bring up. I did notice that there were concrete blocks that were placed there which prevent vehicles from driving through and forcing vehicles to either back in or back out. At times, specifically during lunch when there are multiple flights coming in at once, I just wanted to point out that there may be some safety concerns when vehicles are forced to back out during busy times. I just would like to ask why those concrete blocks were placed there. Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main purpose is to put those barriers where people are driving right into ongoing traffic. On both sides it was a safety issue of people parked and then just driving right into ongoing traffic. In parking lots, people are expected to be courteous and back up accordingly. For safety purposes, this is the reason why the parking spaces there, if we take those barriers, as you might notice if you go into the air terminal side, that is designated for ongoing or continuous vehicles that are driving and, if you go to the left side, that's coming into the airport terminal or the parking lot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move on to my next question and my next questions are in relation to the Iqaluit Marine Infrastructure Project and the Pond Inlet project as well. I was curious if the minister would be able to provide us with an update on the status of these projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: You can hear me? I'm trying to push the mute button here. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. If I can get quick training on how to silence this. Oh, (interpretation) it's this one?

>>Laughter

(interpretation ends) Sorry. I'm getting used to this new technology, and I thought I was very good at knowing a lot of technology.

Mr. Chairman, for those two that are ongoing, the one for the Iqaluit deep sea port is to date, I believe, on time. In terms of their reporting and that, that's continuing. With the port in Pond Inlet we had a delay in terms of getting accommodations for the construction. The construction company had a delay in getting any kind of accommodations, so they waited until they were able to arrange their own accommodations. That almost took quite a bit, the early part of the summer, but it's going on now.

For both of these, the project is expected to be done for next year. Whatever can get done in time or catch up will be. Right now we're right in the middle, so it's difficult to say exactly whether they're on time and on budget. It's very live right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last year there have been a number of boat fires and other security concerns around the beach area. I was wondering if the project has taken that into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not in the scope. However, I wanted to provide an update. For the north side, we are installing the

street lights, which hopefully will deter any of the people who want to do arson, which we always discourage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response, minister, but I would just like to ask if you would be able to elaborate on that a bit further.

Looking at the floating dock, I believe it is, where individuals will be parking their boats, it is a concern to me considering that so many individuals rely on those boats to access marine wildlife. A number of full-time hunters rely on...their subsistence relies on their ability to get out on the water. What sort of safety measures are there in relation to the floating docks to ensure that the boats that moored there will be safe? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Mr. Lightstone, there's something running interference near your microphone or something there, so if you want to move it, please. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the tasks that I have given my staff in terms of getting some form of operational or maintenance, including security, going forward. It's a plan that my department has been working on in terms of how to develop those policies around that and a program around that. I don't have that done yet, but I do anticipate and hopefully that I'll have by next fiscal year when the owners of the two ports,

especially the one here. (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had said something that sparked my interest and that's the operations of the facilities once they are completed. I was curious if the port would be operated by a non-profit port authority or if it would fall within the jurisdiction of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In leading up to next year our staff are working diligently in providing us an option in terms of how we're going to operate and maintain what sort of structure it will be. We don't have that specific yet. Those are still under development and are being reviewed by various staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the response and I look forward to hearing more about that when the time comes.

My last questions will be surrounding the topic that I brought up previously and that's the department's or the minister's consideration of incorporating roll-on, roll-off technology into the project scope. Specifically I would like to enquire if the minister had any intentions at any point of incorporating roll-on, roll-off into the project.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The option of roll-on, roll-off was as part of the project scope in terms of as part of our preplanning and it was deemed too expensive. The tides being the way they are were a huge concern. That was dropped off the scope. At this point it has not gone back into the projects.

The cost alone would almost be for some of the other communities that are envious of having ports. I think that's something that we have to take into consideration when we're looking at additional project scopes within each community. This one far exceeds what other communities may want to have in terms of their own port. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the minister may indulge me, it's my understanding that ocean-going vessels that have the roll-on, roll-off capabilities and typically ocean-going ferries have a ramp built in, so all that's required is a flat surface for the ramp to drop down as well as a locking mechanism to hold the vessel in place. I was wondering if my assumptions are correct, if it is that simple and secondly, what was the cost estimate to incorporate that into the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome any options that are out there and if there are innovative projects such as what my member colleague just suggested, we welcome and we will be able to review any of those as part of our future. As I mentioned earlier, we are right in the middle of our scoping of our marine infrastructure, so this is timely to make some of those.

When we were doing our feasibility study or preplanning on this of including the roll-on, roll-off, the design that came to us was in excess of \$25 million. It's something that as a department we looked at it and said no, we can't support that and as part of the money that was already allocated through the Building Canada Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question for the minister would be if he would be willing to share with me that feasibility study and the cost estimate that suggested the \$25 million ticket price of this specific item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Mr. Chairman, thank you. We don't get that level of detailed request, but it's something that I'll definitely look into and work with my colleagues and see if we're able to provide that. I just don't know at what stage and how much information there is, but I definitely will look at it and talk to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister.

(interpretation ends) Regarding airports, the minister mentioned other communities being envious when it comes to marine infrastructure. I would say the same applies to airports and I'll just ask a few questions to get to the point.

When it comes to the airport in Arviat, can the minister give us an update on number one, a wheelchair ramp, which my understanding is a small request, \$50,000 to \$100,000, for a fancy one, I would say, and an equipment shelter for the heavy equipment at the airport? (interpretation) That is my question on those two items in regard to the Arviat Airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For the wheelchair ramp, that issue has been in this House and I stand to be corrected, but whenever we're doing any kind of renovations, if there is no wheelchair ramp in that airport, that's one of the priorities that we put in as we're doing airport renovations. We can't do them all at the same time, but it's something that whenever we're doing renovations, we do this and we're doing it in stages. I think Baker Lake was the first and we just finished that this summer. That has been three years in the making.

Something that members continue to

raise to me and I am very concerned about it too, the existing buildings that were built did not have the wheelchair access ramps and something that I have tasked my staff to see if they can sort of not necessarily follow the existing...we will get to it when we renovate. I think we definitely need to look at that and I am willing to commit to looking at Arviat's and see if we can because that would be fitting under the transportation equipment and facilities capital. That's something that I'm definitely willing to look at.

The other question was on... . Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. You stated that the ramp in Baker Lake took three years, but I think it was under construction and on the go in Baker Lake and you added the ramp on later on. Just for the record, it didn't take three years to build a ramp in Baker Lake. Minister Akeegok, did you want to continue?

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize to the member that I forgot one of his questions and his question was on the airport shelters or heavy equipment shelters. That's one of the challenges that I have. We have been on planning stages for most of, if not all, the communities. We have relied heavily on the hamlets or private contractors to provide our shelters. I understand that we do need our own shelters and something that we are identifying in our 20-year needs, but it's one that when we do our prioritizing in terms of the limited funds we have, which one do we do first, and that's one of those major facilities that we definitely need additional funding for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In this fiscal year the department is proposing to start construction of a \$60 million airport in the neighbouring community of Rankin Inlet, but at the same time the department does not have the money to build a garage for the heavy equipment or to put a wheelchair ramp on the airside of the airport. It's really hard to square the two when you put the two side by side. I mean, I would think that disabled and elderly passengers would get a very high priority list in terms of the projects to work on.

I understand the one in Baker Lake took quite a while for the member representing that community to get a commitment out of the government. (interpretation) If more work could be done on this matter, it would be good. Has the minister considered this? Has any discussions been made about it? I'm talking about disabled people when it comes to (interpretation ends) the wheelchair ramp. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I think there are quite a few communities in similar situations, including mine. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. When it comes to the wheelchair ramp, yes, it is something that we are working on. When we are building it on existing projects, we are using the current capital as our leverage to build them. That's something that I'm definitely tasking the staff to do. I don't

have a single line item on wheelchair ramps, but it's something that's definitely within our capital as part of the renovation projects.

Not having money for shelters and money for the neighbouring communities, one of the good things that I as a minister have been able to do is to work with my partners and come up with and find ways of getting money to build major infrastructure. I think the federal government has stepped up in terms of their National Trade Corridors Fund and provide us, the territorial government, an opportunity to submit proposals for much-needed major infrastructure like the Rankin Inlet Airport.

What you do not see here is the Pangnirtung relocation and you do not see Kimmirut, but we're trying to do it in stages where there are major funds infused as part of the infrastructure plans throughout the country. This is something that I am very keen in and very avid about trying to find ways of bringing major infrastructure in. For the minor ones, I am still working and I will still continue to work with my colleagues in terms of finding funds to help renovate some of these projects. I think we are trying.

Also, I want to elaborate a little bit more that I have been advocating for the Minister of Transport to have a northern airports capital assistance program. That airports capital assistance program does very good work towards renovating and improving our airports. The money that is provided there is not adequate and something that I have and will continue to advocate for the Minister of Transport to do because it is through those funds that we are able to meet a lot of our

renovations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Just to make a comment, when you talked about the wheelchair ramps and only tying it into when there are renovations at an airport, many of our airports aren't planned for any renovations, so it will be years before we get wheelchair ramps. Maybe you should consider in the future of having a line item in your budget so that this work can be done in the communities that need it. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's my understanding is that the Arviat Airport isn't scheduled for renovation. I mean, if it was up to me, we would build the wheelchair ramp, we would build the equipment shelter, and then we put the rest of the money to public housing. It's probably a bigger need than the airport.

It's a noticeable feature of many governments across the world and governments generally love fancy airports. It's out there. Governments love fancy airports and fancy airports cost governments a lot of money.

There are numerous examples, but I'll shift to my other community and the airport still, the Whale Cove Airport. Does the Whale Cove Airport currently have an adequate stock of crushed gravel, which I understand is a key material in terms of maintaining the runway surface? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your comment, yes, I'll definitely look into in terms of making that urgent. Hearing from members, I'll get support when we bring forward the capital. I'll definitely take that into consideration. Based on the conversations here, it doesn't necessarily have to be tied to the renovation, so that's something I'm asking my staff to see what we can do right now and something that I'll definitely do.

I also want to point out that in other jurisdictions most of the airports are becoming privatized. We're one of the northern parts of Canada that is operated by governments, but most of the airports, all the fancy airports that are out there are pretty much privatized.

When it comes to Whale Cove and granular, there is not enough and something that we're working. If I understood, there is a proposal that we brought forward to the Airports Capital Assistance Program, which is a federal program, to help see if we can bring in gravel or crush them there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's good to hear the department is working on a project. Does it entail buying a crusher or having a crusher that moves around the Kivalliq region, or would it simply be shipping in crushed gravel from another location? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. I wish I could take all the gravel from some of my communities and some to the other communities. I think we have a very healthy community in the riding I represent in terms of selling the wonderful gravel that's readily available, but just doing the cost analysis does not allow for that. The plan here for Whale Cove and the proposal is to have a contractor and do the crushing on site. I don't think we envision buying a crusher right now and moving it around the territory or shipping. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go back to Mr. Main, I would like to add a question on the granular myself. I know you're talking about Whale Cove specific and you talked about a federal program. Does this proposal include more than just Whale Cove? Is it several communities? I know that granular in my community is depleted too, so if you could update us on that. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you. The Airports Capital Assistance Program is a project-by-project basis, so this is one project that we're talking about. I don't know if we have one readily available for Sanikiluaq or any other community right now. The overlay for the runways that we got put in for consideration in terms of projects are for the community of Whale Cove and the community of Pangnirtung at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I only asked about Sanikiluaq because in the 20-year infrastructure plan, I do believe that it stated that Sanikiluaq needed to be redone in 2016 and it's still not done, so

that's why I brought that up.

Mr. Main, do you have another question? Please go ahead.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think it's pretty clear from the questions that I'm trying to make it clear that there are very basic needs that need to be met. Some of them are tied to safety. My understanding is that crushed granular is like a safety thing for the actual... .

At the same time we're being told, "Oh, the department doesn't have money for that yet." The department does have money for \$60 million facilities and yes, we're getting a good deal on it where we pay for a quarter of it and the federal government pays for the rest, but it doesn't change the fact that it's still \$15 million out of the government's budget.

When it comes to the new airport terminal building in Whale Cove, it was part of five that were approved all at the same time or under the trade corridors fund. At the time we had a discussion as to why we couldn't build five airports all at once. The department's doing it in a phased approach. First will be Chesterfield Inlet and I can't remember the other one...Naujaat, thank you, and then the other three will be built after that, including Whale Cove.

The reason for that phased approach, I believe, had to do with project management. That was the explanation at the time. In this budget we have a new airport project, the Rankin Inlet Airport, and it is proceeding with apparently no bottlenecks at the project management side of things. On page 7 of 10, this is under the Rankin Inlet project, it states

project management, \$200,000 in year one. It's my understanding that the department will be contracting out the project management of this project.

Circling back to the Whale Cove Airport, why didn't the department simply contract out the project management for the Whale Cove Airport to see it built sooner? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In submitting these for consideration and in particular those five communities, we submitted to the National Trade Corridors Fund to receive... . We can get five airports if we do it in phases. Also, within that scoping, we can do it within our current process. That's how we got that phased. In terms of why we're phasing is for managing those five airports.

When we did the Rankin Inlet Airport, that's larger and more complex and that's something that when we did submit to the National Trade Corridors Fund, we would buy that portion in terms of not necessarily using our existing... . When it's a major project and the complexity, then we work with CGS very closely and determine "Will you be able to do this? If not, how can we proceed?" We take each of these projects and assess them, and by the time we get... .

With the National Trade Corridors Fund, there are specific timelines that we needed to meet in terms of putting the application in. Once we did it and got approval, those are what the scopes or

the conditions that we needed to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If the project management part can be contracted out, has the department looked at doing that for these three other airports in order to speed up when they will be built or do the existing schedules still apply for Whale Cove, which has construction taking place in 2021-22 and 2022-23? It's still a number of years off, despite the fact that the money is in place. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there would be any change right now at this point. At this point our government is proposing that we do it in this phase. This is following our five-year capital planning process where we do the preplanning, planning and design, then build for the next two, and then occupy it. Even if we change our scope right now and buy the management, I don't think it would speed up any of the five airports that are here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm going to keep on the topic of airports and about this new \$60 million facility in Rankin Inlet which is being proposed. Did the department consider a P3

approach for this project and, if so, how many potential partners were contacted? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, before this Assembly, the consideration of P3 projects were taken into consideration by the previous governments. The only one that seemed viable would have been the Iqaluit International Airport and that's the one that has gone through the P3 approach.

For the Rankin Inlet renovation project, it fits well within the criteria of the National Trade Corridors Fund and that's something that we went and asked for funding. I am very proud that our government was approved for this and for the five other community projects, I think it's a testament of the hard work that our staff and our government have done in terms of finding additional funding and something that we will continue.

If there are any P3 opportunities, we can continue to engage with a P3 company. I don't know if it's a department, but there is an existing P3 office in the federal government that looks at different projects. We will continue to explore those options, but it's something, as you can see, even in a P3, we will continue to pay for projects. For the Iqaluit, we're looking at paying for the next 30 years. For the Rankin Inlet renovation/expansion, we're looking at paying the six years. Those are some of the cost analyses that our government needs to take consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) He mentioned "taking into consideration" and so that's precisely what I'm interested in is whether a P3 was taken into consideration. Depending on who you talk to about the Iqaluit airport, it was either a great project and an innovative approach to building a major piece of infrastructure and some other people feel differently. Some other people feel that it was a mistake and that it wasn't properly thought out before the government was bound into a legal agreement. Like you mentioned, we will be paying for it for decades. I'll just leave that P3 one there.

When it comes to this Rankin Inlet Airport, you're proposing to go into the design stage this year. Would the department be open to considering alternative building methods? You have a trade school located in Rankin Inlet and you have this planned as a phase build over a number of years. It might be a crazy idea, it probably is, but you have a trade school in the community, you have a student residence, you have a major piece of infrastructure that you're going to build, but the plan would be to contract that out to a company and they would come in and build it.

(interpretation) Is it possible to have apprentices in partnership with Arctic College? Can the department consider it further? It probably wouldn't be very beneficial or it could train a lot of young people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main.

Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I mention P3, I think it's now called Infrastructure Bank. That's what that new Crown corporation is called. As far as I remember, they don't look at any projects that are under \$250 million, so it's something that the Rankin Inlet Airport falls way under that. That's where we took that opportunity through the National Trade Corridors Fund to put our bid in. As part of our proposal and our submission, we did put this in as regular construction and something that we continue to do.

One of the things that my colleague, the community and government services minister, mentioned the other day and something that we continue to work in is when we are contracting major work such as this, there is a working group that the Department of Family Services, Community and Government Services, and Economic Development and Transportation under the NNI are working in terms of with the contractors ahead of the contract and say, "This is a great opportunity for trades and here is a wonderful opportunity." I think that if we continue and we're going to apply that to this project, I'm very optimistic that that's going to be a good outcome as the trade school is right there, but it's large enough that I think that's something that we will do.

I think we had some early wins in terms of the major projects that we have when it comes to the training plans and the need for trade training to take place. I thank the member to continue raising that and something that we will definitely do and grow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again thank the minister. I do have some questions specifically about road construction. If I can be provided with another opportunity later on to speak about this matter, I will have more questions again. It is at your discretion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment for now, I think, so we will move on. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, this issue is what I want to ask about first. In August 2019 the federal government made an announcement about approving four major infrastructure project proposals. With the completion of the proposal stage and the approvals, what is the current status? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. This past August the federal minister travelled to Nunavut to make his announcement about the approval of the proposals submitted. He announced the approval of these four projects via the (interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund. (interpretation) Back in August they announced the following four projects: the Rankin Inlet Airport expansion; the Kivalliq road study to connect five communities; Calm Air's installation of boarding ramps; and the Grays Bay Port and Road Project proposed by the Kitikmeot Inuit

Association. These four projects were announced in August 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have brought up on several occasions the proposed project in Qikiqtarjuaq for a deep water port. Environmental studies have been conducted and not only in Qikiqtarjuaq, as there is great economic potential in Nunavut for ships to offload their catch, whether it's shrimp or turbot, where Inuit are employed.

Due to the lack of marine infrastructure in Nunavut, the fishing vessels have to offload far away in Greenland and Newfoundland. These are huge sources of revenue Nunavut could generate that just go outside the territory.

Now, minister, you wrote a letter at the beginning of the year to the committee saying that the Government of Nunavut will submit a proposal through the National Trade Corridors Fund for a new deep water port in Qikiqtarjuaq. What is the status of that today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for the question. The submission included that project proposal for Qikiqtarjuaq and it was submitted to the federal government. The proposals came from Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

When the proposals were first submitted, they were asked to include more details related to the business case for the projects. The proposals were submitted after that request. Qikiqtaaluk Corporation was informed that their proposal was not approved for this submission and would not comprise part of the approved funding for the other projects.

The community, the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, and we as the Nunavut government had submitted support letters for these proposed projects. As it was announced that this project was not approved for funding, we will have to do more preparatory work on this proposal. You are totally correct, my colleague, that many letters have been submitted about this proposed project in support and identifying the potential employment opportunities. I will continue to search for funding for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for that clarification. This is a priority for the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq, especially since there are hardly any employment prospects locally and Qikiqtarjuaq is a non-decentralized community. We know we lack employment opportunities compared to other communities.

This is to try to create employment opportunities if the port was to be constructed, so this will continue to be a project pushed for by the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. It would not only assist us but all of Nunavut as revenue would be

generated for providing marine services to the fishing fleets off shore of Nunavut.

I wonder if the minister will focus on this project and try to encourage the government to support this proposal so that this project can be approved for funding, which the community of Qikiqtarjuaq has maintained as their best employment opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, with respect to the proposals we submitted for approval through the (interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund, (interpretation) it is hard to determine the outcome right now, and the project meets all the criteria of the fund. With that being the case, when the funding proposal window opens once more, we can include this on our list of proposals. Further, I will work in partnership with the Inuit organizations and our colleagues in this House.

We were given an expectation. The government that was recently re-elected made a promise in the summer that if they continue with northern infrastructure projects under the (interpretation ends) National Trade Corridors Fund, (interpretation) they would allocate up to \$400 million over eight years. With that being the promise, I very much look forward to the government announcing large pots of money that can be used for such infrastructure, but they are done through proposals.

Once the funding is announced, they will indicate the criteria and funding limits. Once we have that information, I will be able to identify which projects we can submit for approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving to a different topic, as I said earlier, there are many unemployed people in my community and they have no employment opportunities.

Now, there is a freezer that arrived in the community which is supposed to be a community freezer. It is large and in great condition, being new. The hunters and trappers organization and the hamlet partnered together to get it shipped so that it can benefit the community since there was no community freezer. We now have an adequate freezer that was sent to Qikiqtarjuaq.

My other constituency community also got a freezer sent up in the summer that will be for the entire community, but we know that funding hasn't been provided to operate the freezer in Qikiqtarjuaq. It's just sitting idle. Even though it's there now and it has been completed, funding is not being provided for its use. We know that it can provide tremendous benefits, especially for the hunters. We hunt mostly marine mammals over in Qikiqtarjuaq. If the freezer was operational, it would provide a lot of benefits for hunters. Has the minister been informed of or made any plans to fund the community freezer through ED&T? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member. For the funding allocated for 2019-2020, funding was made available for country food support through your approval as members. This fund is used to finance the purchase of community freezers and setting them up. I can look into this further so that I can report to my colleague on the status of the community freezer in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Based on the briefing notes, the freezer has arrived, but it hasn't been completed yet. Once I get more information, I can provide it to the member, as there are quite a number of freezers in that situation, and they are funded through our operations and maintenance budget, not through capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask about the Chesterfield Inlet Airport Terminal Building. In looking at it, it's clear that it was contaminated with (interpretation ends) lead paint (interpretation) and asbestos. The substantiation sheets, which are written in English, indicate that the work on the airport terminal building will proceed through contract. It is anticipated that the project will proceed near the end of the year.

I'll speak in English. (interpretation ends) The Chesterfield Inlet terminal right now was known to have identified contaminants and these have been

removed and prepared, but the substantiation sheet is telling me that the project will be carried out through a design-build with the tender expected in the second half of 2019-2020. Has the tender been carried out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. We're planning to have the tender out by December of this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another concern is in 2017 the Government of Nunavut provided a written submission to the National Trade Corridors Fund. What is the current status of the proposed Manitoba-Nunavut winter road? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not part of our plans right now. We're starting with our proposal to connect the five Kivalliq communities by road. That seems to be the beginning of the project. It's conceivable that more projects will be initiated for the Manitoba road. As you stated, it was proposed and it was denied. They probably thought the anticipated project would cost too much, but we haven't forgotten about it at all. Perhaps through a proposal, we can connect the communities by road and that's our priority right now. Thank you,

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My third question is on August 14, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$76.5 million in federal funding under the Oceans Protection Plan for the construction of community harbours in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, your riding, Mr. Minister. However, are the Department of Fisheries and Oceans small craft harbour projects in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay the same as community harbour projects that were announced by Transport Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As much as I want to take the credit that Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay are getting small craft harbours along with Arctic Bay, this work was done through the negotiations from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the federal government as a whole through the Tallurutiup Imanga and Tuvaijuittuq Conservation Area.

Through those, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association was able to negotiate that all of the five communities that are in that conservation area would receive a port or a harbour. I believe that through their negotiations, what they have done is that the existing one or the current one that's being built in Pond Inlet would be deemed as one of the investments.

Through their negotiations, Arctic Bay and Clyde River, those two are going to be funded and built through the Department of Fisheries Small Craft Harbours program. They will build that.

For the communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, those were deemed smaller and Transport Canada was engaged in those negotiations. For the small community harbours, when it comes to Transport Canada, they tend to use the territorial and provincial governments as a funding mechanism to build these ports. That's where in August the Transport Canada minister came and announced those two projects.

A week before, the Prime Minister of Canada made the announcements of all five and within those, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans was a part of the Prime Minister's delegation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was not answered. I was asking if those were different from small craft harbours from community harbours, whether the Department of Fisheries and Oceans projects were the same as community harbour projects compared to the small craft harbour projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I answered it with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is building two small craft harbours in

the two communities and that Transport Canada is building community harbours. Those are two very distinct programs under the federal program, and I was trying to explain what processes they use. I do apologize if I didn't explain it well. For the Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay one, it's called the community harbours.

Typically how the federal government gauges who is going to be doing what, when it comes to Transport Canada, community harbours tend to be smaller and not necessarily for commercial fisheries whereas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is more focused on commercial fisheries and for that. There are two distinct ways.

For the Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord that was announced in August, it's under the Community Harbours program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question, I do know the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet was very successful in using the Community Transportation Initiatives Program by building a road or a Honda trail to the Josephine River. However, my question is: when will the 2018-19 annual report be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? I'm curious as to the allocation of the Community Transportation Initiatives Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My plan is to table this in the winter sitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) When I went to school, the very first thing I was taught was the English language, so I will speak English.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask a few questions today about the department's capital plan for airports. I want to begin by paying tribute to the long-standing efforts by the community, the municipal leadership, and my predecessors for working on the issue of Pond Inlet's airport.

As a new MLA, I am catching up with documents that were previously tabled in the Legislative Assembly. My first question for the minister is: can he confirm when an updated version of his department's 20-year airport needs assessment will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The members here all approved our budgets for 2019-2020. In that I committed and I still continue to commit that we are going to get it done this fiscal year. I don't have a specific date as we are just reviewing the very first drafts, but we will need to go back and forth. I don't have a firm date, but I have committed to getting this done

within this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page 7-1 of the 20-year airport needs assessment it indicates that the Pond Inlet Airport requires a number of short-term improvements, including “runway, taxiway and apron gravel overlays...” Can he confirm what work has been undertaken in recent years at the Pond Inlet Airport? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As he quoted on the existing or the one that just expired, the 20-year needs, I think our Chair also mentioned that his community has been expecting one since 2016 on its overlay.

This 20-year needs is a planning tool and something I just want to caution. It’s a planning tool for our department and it allows us to seek funding. It’s a needs assessment that allows us to go through these. It’s one, as I mentioned, that we’re going to get the new version, the 20-year needs to be done this year. These help us for future capital planning.

For the work that we have done to date in Pond Inlet in particular, I don’t have that specific, but what I can do is commit to the member to get that information and provide that for him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page 6-2 of the 20-year airport needs assessment it indicates that “...growing interest in confirming high arctic sovereignty has...given rise to the concept of developing a jet-capable airport centrally located at or near Pond Inlet.”

As the minister is well aware, this would also be a strategic benefit to economic development in the North Baffin. Can the minister confirm if he supports the objective of designating Pond Inlet’s airport as the official hub airport of North Baffin? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot commit unless we find the dollars to do it. We don’t determine who becomes a hub. What we do is provide the environment to the airlines and to the transportation sector in terms of providing an avenue for whether they need a hub or not. It’s one that with newer planes and the way it works, it’s very difficult as a government to say “Okay, this shall be the hub.” We try to get the environment to attract the airline industry to getting into a hub system.

Right now I don’t have that with me, whether to support it or not, but I will continue to work with the member in terms of trying to see how we can improve the High Arctic area. It’s much similar to a lot of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page 6-2 of the 20-year airport needs assessment it recommends that a “feasibility study be undertaken to determine the cost and benefits of constructing a new high arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet...”

Can the minister confirm if this study has been undertaken and, if it has not been undertaken, will he commit to using a portion of his department’s planning studies budget for this purpose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qamaniq. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The study he quoted was drafted and done 20 years ago. I don’t know if any work was done or if there was any study within the living memory of the people sitting here. We don’t have that study. If there is one, I will definitely try to look for it. If there hasn’t been one, that’s one of the things that I continually stress is that these 20-year needs studies are a planning tool and it’s not concrete; it’s not a capital plan. It’s something that if it hasn’t been done, will it be done? Those are the very things that we need to do, but it’s something with updating our 20-year, it is one of the areas that we are looking into in terms of “Okay, how are we going to see this territory 20 years down the road in the lens of transportation?” Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions to ask. Earlier this year the

Legislative Assembly approved a \$512,000 capital carryover for the Pangnirtung Airport Relocation Project. I would like to ask about the status of the funding to date or whether it has been directed to something else. That’s my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That money, \$512,000, is still there for the Pangnirtung Airport Relocation Project. The money is still there and it was just carried over this year. The money is still there. We didn’t spend any of that money this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize the effort that the Government of Nunavut made to submit this project to the federal government for consideration. (interpretation ends) I guess my question is: for the record, what specifics did the federal government provide for not approving funding requests for this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I recall, this proposal that was submitted to the federal government was one of the unsuccessful proposals, so that brings us back to the drawing board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What will the government do now? Will it be resubmitting the proposal for Pangnirtung to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not quite sure what we're going to do with it yet and we're not sure what kind of money the federal government will have available. If we're going to undertake a big project like the relocation of Pangnirtung's airport, we will need the federal government to help us. I will keep talking about it and I do keep talking about it to the federal government.

Once we come to an understanding as to how much will be available and what we can request, we will apply for the funds. I will not stop attempting this project or any project that is for airports. We will request help from the federal government, especially for these big, expensive projects, such as the Pangnirtung project, which is going to be very expensive too, as we're all aware. That's what I can say about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I would like to ask as well since you stated that it's going to be very expensive. Can you

tell us how much it will cost if the request from Pangnirtung goes ahead? My last question is regarding the National Trade Corridors Fund that is mentioned. You indicated the ones that were approved and the ones that were planned. How many years have to pass before Nunavut projects are reviewed again? Is it an annual review or how does it work? I don't understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are starting to review them and we just started. I can say that in terms of the cost, and don't quote me on this, but we are doing a preliminary study and we expect that it would cost \$100 million to \$150 million to move the airport. However, we need to do a lot more work on this. It would have to be built on top of the hill and cloud studies would need to be done and things like that.

What I always mention, (interpretation ends) the National Trade Corridors Fund, (interpretation) when the Liberal government got elected, this is what they created. They had two calls for proposals and we received two big approvals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff.

On August 27, 2019 the federal Minister of Transport announced \$7.4 million in funding to introduce a new Global Navigation Satellite System instrument

approach procedure and to assess 61 aerodromes to “identify sites where improvements to instrument procedures are possible.”

To what extent is the Department of Economic Development and Transportation involved in this work and which communities in Nunavut will be assessed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don’t have a formal agreement with NAV CANADA for those particular navigational lights that they got approvals for, but with our continued working relationship with NAV CANADA, I am sure we will continue with our departmental staff while they are improving these GPS approaches. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. I would like to welcome Mr. Harry Towtongie to the gallery.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before you put any improvements in the Gjoa Haven Airport GPS system, have you ever thought about extending or making it bigger so that it can accommodate airplanes such as jets? We’re getting a lot of visitors now in the summertime; a lot of tourists coming through. We are now experiencing a lot of people getting bumped off the airlines, trying to come home, like I mentioned to the Minister of Health the other day. In such cases we can

accommodate people coming home earlier and providing transportation for anybody who is coming in to visit. I’m just wondering if you ever accommodated making the runway a lot bigger in Gjoa Haven to accommodate such things as jets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of our small capital programs here, one of the things that we do is do studies on whether the airport airstrips need to be expanded or width or what type of improvements. We’re just finishing one in one community and to look at studies, one of the things that we do is take our 20-year needs study and look at that.

I think one of your justifications is that your community is getting busier and busier and something that we will take and reflect in terms of when we’re doing our 20-year needs study, but to say that whether you have the capability of getting a jet service there, that study can be accommodated through the small capital. Like some of our members already indicated, what is our priority? Do we try to build extensions so that we can have jets or do we fix up the wheelchair ramps? Those are the very things that our staff have to go through, through our small capital projects in determining and it’s a fine balance.

I don’t want to commit to whether we should do a study in Gjoa Haven unless we go through and sort of help identify that through our 20-year needs study, but I’m not saying no. It’s just for this current 2020-21 capital estimates that I

have before you that we're trying to get approved, I don't think that's in there, but I don't want to necessarily say no because somewhere down the line we definitely will need to see and look at different airports and airstrips, and we can do that through the studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment, I think we do need a bigger runway in Gjoa Haven, justifying it because we've got Kugaaruk that can accommodate jet services, Cambridge Bay can accommodate jet services, as well as Kugluktuk, so all around that area in the Kitikmeot. If Gjoa Haven becomes one of them, I think it would be justified. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. Maybe in the meantime you should maybe contact the airlines and talk about maybe that you need extra service in your community for the time being until the airports can get something in their capital plans.

Next on my list, Ms. Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. In your opening comments you state that you're proposing funding for the air terminal buildings in Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, and Whale Cove to advance the planning and design of these projects. For the record, can you elaborate on when the terminal in Kugluktuk will be completed? Like some of my colleagues, we don't have a wheelchair access ramp on the airside

and our luggage is offloaded outside of the terminal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kamingoak. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on our planning and if we get approval for this and everything goes through, we're anticipating by 2023 a completion date for the airport in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me another round. (interpretation ends) I just have a few more niggling questions or remaining questions on this Rankin Inlet Airport. Going through the substantiation sheet, it says here that... . Thank you first of all for including some of these design schematics. It's just a concept, I understand. At this point there is no design that has been completed.

Getting to the overall cost, it's a class "D" construction cost estimate and it says here on page 7 of 10, "This terminal expansion concept used to prepare the cost estimate was significantly larger than the area provided in this proposal, an additional 5,145 square metres compared to 3,300 square metres. As such the class 'D' estimate likely overstates the construction costs." It also mentions it in the other part of the documentation. If the minister could just clarify why you would use a building that is much larger than the one that you actually want to build to do your costing. I just don't understand that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, if I could ask Mr. John Hawkins to explain this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costing estimate was developed by a sub to the designer and I think they gave him the initial design work and it was developed from there. As the designer refined the design, the footprint of the building shrunk. This came straight out of the proposal that we provided to Canada, so there were short deadlines to get that proposal to Canada. It's the best we have at the moment. That's the class "D" that we have to go with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying that. On that same page it mentions that the Government of Nunavut will be responsible for all cost overruns. That's the thing when you don't have a partner in these projects here to take on the risk.

If it's a class "D" estimate, and I'm just going back of the envelope here, class "D" estimates are between 20 and 30 percent either way. It could come in under budget or it could go over budget up to 30 percent. It would be what, \$80 million? Is that the reason why they have used this building, which was much larger than what's actually planned?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To keep the answer short, yes, that is the reason why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the event that this project comes in under budget, what happens to the funding under the trade corridors fund? Is the government permitted to direct it towards other airports, let's say they're part of the same system of transportation, or is that money just lost from the federal government if you come in under budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish our flexibility was that, but it's through the contribution agreements, I don't think we will be able to take any of the...if there are cost savings to take it. It has been long-standing with the 75-25 that if it does go over, it's whoever the proponent is does cover the remainder, but that's one of the reasons why the design was larger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Your mic was still on there for a little while, so we could hear the conversation that was going on. Did he answer any of your

questions, Mr. Main? Mr. Main.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I got the impression that there was more information coming, so maybe if the minister could just clarify that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we do get approval for this, the next step would be to start and having those discussions on the contribution agreements. If they can be flexible about it, if they allow us to have the networks, there is an opportunity. We always try and I think our Chair might know how our department or transportation folks, when they're doing their capital planning, they try to stretch it out as much as possible.

I won't say it might happen or it won't happen, but it's still subject as part of our negotiations or defining on in terms of the contribution agreements. At this point in time I don't envision it, but it's something that I'm sure some of our staff will look into and if there's an opportunity, then we will take that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My next question is still on this Rankin Inlet Airport, but it's a request to the minister and I'm requesting that when you go

into the design phase, I think it would be very beneficial if the department involve community members in vetting the design. There's a contractor base in Rankin Inlet. There are tradespeople.

I don't know if there are any engineers in Rankin Inlet, but I really personally do not like when governments let the architects go nuts and then the architects will bring their fancy design to a community consultation and get their feedback from the community after the design is all done.

I think it would be really incredible to see a building that really incorporates from the very early stages the local knowledge of the people who know construction, who know how to save money, who know which way the wind is going to come from, how to avoid snow drifting, and I think there could be some real... That's the kind of building I would prefer to see built as an airport, one that actually reflects the local people, not just on a superficial level but at the very fundamental design level. (interpretation) That's my question, if I was understandable, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I can't stress enough that we do need community input into any of our designs. I hear you and that's something that when we're doing the design typically through our project management, we visit the community. Something like a major infrastructure like this, I don't want to prejudge how we're going to determine the design, but

whoever is doing the project management and working on the design, I would see that they're definitely going to need some community input, especially for those people in Rankin Inlet who are very familiar with the wind situations. There is going to be an opportunity for that and that is something that is part of our planning and design phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I will look forward to having the people of Rankin Inlet involved from the initial phase because Nunavut Inuit have extensive knowledge of their land.

(interpretation ends) Moving to this Kivalliq intercommunity road study, it's one of the, I believe, only projects that I am really excited about personally out of this budget. The \$6 million, I would like to congratulate the department on securing some money for this planning project.

On page 4 it makes reference to new a Kivalliq highway, and I think that's pretty exciting. It's going to be planning work on the proposed construction of the intercommunity road. My first question is: is the department planning to involve the mining industry in terms of planning this planning work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hoping that everybody

gets involved in this, especially, as you say, with the mining industry. I think they're the ones that know how to build the remote roads right now. They're the leaders in this, so we really look to them in terms of that.

Also, how you can link is one of the things that we are trying to do is how can we do this so all the networks fall into place. I think over the past...I don't know how many years since the access road program came to be. I have to credit the Kivalliq communities for continuing to apply and getting the funding and they have been building the roads that now, when you're flying over Kivalliq, it's a network of roads, and I applaud the communities for doing that.

This helps the vision that has been in place by Kivallirmiut of seeing their roads connecting to each other, and in the long run connecting to Manitoba. Geographically that's possible and that's what is so exciting about this. Whoever wants to be involved in it once we start this, I encourage everybody to participate. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have heard that when the mining companies build roads, one kilometre of road costs about \$1 million. This road is 450 kilometres long. Based on that, it is going to be very expensive to build the road, and I expect that snow removal or operations and maintenance will be very costly as well.

(interpretation ends) This project will include consideration of eventual...how

it would be operated and maintained. Is it too early to say whether this would be a paved road or whether it would be a gravel road? I believe the one in the west to Tuktoyaktuk is gravel and it was constructed recently. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's way too early to determine that. This is the reason why we're doing this study is to sort of start providing ourselves options.

You mentioned Tuktoyaktuk. It has been a vision for a long time for Tuktoyaktummiut to get a road connected to the rest of their territory. Their consistance paid off and a lot of the funding came from the federal government. It is through those studies and these initiatives that the communities want.

I don't envision our government spending \$450 million. Like you say, if we're going to pave a 450-kilometre road and it costs a million dollars, that's going to cost \$450 million. We don't even have a \$450 million capital plan right now.

These are the very studies that help us start shaping where and how do we find partnerships. I think it's through these that we will be able to find partners. The Kivalliq Inuit Association, give them credit on their fibre side. They were able to find private partners. It is through these studies that start attracting partnerships and that's one of the inroads for us is to start looking and start partnering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. With respect to what the minister just mentioned, the Kivalliq Inuit Association is working on the fibre optic project and it is held by them, while the new project is held by the government. They are working on the plans for both projects. How are you going to collaborate with the KIA? These two projects are good and they should be worked on in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to give credit to their current president, David Ningeongan. When I started asking for what kind of project should we be approaching the Nunavut trade corridors fund, this was one proposal that they submitted in the first submission and they said they didn't get the approval. I said, "Why don't we work together and let us submit it, and definitely we will need your support for this," and he was busy doing the fibre too.

We agreed that we need to share information and we need to show our support to each other because those are two different pots of federal funding. At the same time, in the long-term vision, it's going to connect Kivalliq to the rest of Canada or Nunavut to the rest of Canada. Definitely we will be working very closely and cooperating with the Kivalliq Inuit Association on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of creeks and rivers in looking at the road project. The mining company, as I remember, near Baker Lake that mines uranium, Areva, was considering to build a bridge, but it would cost too much. They said that it will be cheaper to use ferries than build a bridge.

(interpretation ends) I'll just speak English because I can't speak Inuktitut right now.

>> *Laughter*

Will this planning work include alternative approaches to river crossings is my question, including cable ferries, which are old technology, but my understanding is they're quite cheap, relatively cheap. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this a great opportunity right now. It is a road study and something that we're going to definitely need to find ways of, if they just are too expensive, what are the alternatives? This is the reason why we really need to do the study. If it's going to be a ferry system, then at the same time we need to determine how we're going to do this and what benefits we will have for the whole territory and for the communities. These are the very things that through the study that I'm going to task this capital project to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main, please continue.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just a closing comment, I'm excited about this, but I'm hesitant to get too excited because as we know, the Kivalliq-Manitoba road has been studied and studied and studied, and this is another study, but hopefully it will come to reality. Eventually I think, for Nunavut, we have to consider connecting to Baker Lake and then from Baker Lake up the mine road, connect up to the Kitikmeot, and eventually we should have a road network pretty much anywhere that it's feasible to build. (interpretation) That's what I envision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main, for that comment. Moving on, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably have just one more question. The 2018-19 capital estimates included \$850,000 in funding for the cleanup of the old airport terminal building in Sanikiluaq, but the 2020-21 capital estimates don't include any new funding for the cleanup of old airport terminal buildings that are no longer in use in the four communities of Qikiqtarjuaq, Coral Harbour, Nanisivik, and Resolute Bay. How has that been planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Keyootak. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We keep planning for them and we will continue to look for options. Some of them are

very costly. It will cost a lot more in Resolute Bay and Nanisivik, as well as in Coral Harbour. Due to the high cost of those projects, we will look at what options we have and who is responsible for cleaning them up. We're trying to respond to your question ourselves and we will try to get more information from the federal government.

With regard to the old airport terminal building in Qikiqtarjuaq that you mentioned, we have made plans to have it removed for next year because we know it will be less costly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief question. The airport terminal building in Taloyoak was completed in 2018 and it was started in 2012 at a cost of over \$6 million. The reason for my question is that once the building was completed, even though the aerodrome radios were built at the same time, they're not operational, so they have to get replaced. I wonder if those aerodrome radios are now operational. Mr. Chairman, I'm asking that for clarification. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank him for that question. I'll have to find that out. We don't run them, but we work with NAV CANADA. Once I get more information from them, I can respond to my colleague via letter as to the status of the CARS radios. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. I just want to remind the member that we are talking about capital and he's talking about radios. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the air terminal building was constructed, why does the airstrip have to be dealt with separately? I'm thinking of the gravel pit that I imagine the minister saw when we were going there. It's close to the runway and the snow probably causes issues for it. It seems like there's somebody at the community aerodrome radio station 24 hours a day at the Taloyoak Airport. When can consideration be given so that it can be used by larger aircraft? I know it can't be done in the near future. That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank my colleague for his warm welcome when we were in Taloyoak. The new air terminal building was a nice facility. We don't operate the aerodrome radio station right away. I wonder how we can start constructing them in partnership with NAV CANADA. We have planned for the extension of runways and the availability of gravel, as well as when they will be in use.

Some airports are running out of gravel, as our Chair stated that his community is running out of gravel, but some communities have gravel set aside for their use. The communities are different and we try to plan for that in advance. That's how it is. The amount of gravel

has to be set accordingly and if we can plan ahead of time for that, we try to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. We are on page K-3. Transportation. Economic Development and Transportation. Transportation. I'm repeating myself. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,035,000. Sorry, I didn't see your hand. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fortunately you saw me.

Maybe I'll have one question depending on the response. I'll see what I will be doing. In your documents and the RFP is calling for a marine infrastructure study. It states here that 18 communities in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions are identified.

It also states here that the people doing the study will identify four to six proposals that will be the priority. Who will be making the decisions and how will they make the decisions on the four to six communities that will be identified in looking at the 18 communities that have been identified for marine infrastructure regarding the RFP? That is my question, if you can understand it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm quickly reading the 41 pages to see which communities it is for. Yes, we have asked them to look at 18 communities and some of them have been completed. When looking at all of the 18 communities, it's trying to say on page

11 to come up with four to six communities from the list to be submitted in a proposal for funding under the Oceans Protection Plan. We haven't set which communities we will be submitting a proposal for. We know what all the communities have and which communities we can include in the proposal. I have requested a report through the RFP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask: what would they want to study? Harbours are good in some areas and some of them are not set up properly for the winds. Are they going to be looking at those things? I would just like to know exactly what they will be studying. I think almost all of the communities have those harbours, but some communities like Hall Beach don't have them yet. I would just like to know what is being looked at or if you cite an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to what we have requested, it has been a while since the harbours were assessed.

I think all the communities have put in proposals and where these facilities would be located. We will be asking the contractors to visit all of the 18 communities to find out where those communities would like to see their harbours located. Alternatively, if there are designs that have already been done

or if plans were already done and the communities still support the designs, we would look at whether they would need to be updated and how much they would cost. Once we get the information, we will determine which communities get harbours, as all communities want harbours.

With that being the case, once we get that information, with the assistance of the reports that have been done, we can be in a better position to request funding for harbours, either through a new proposal or an updated version of an existing proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. Mr. Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The researchers will probably not be coming from Nunavut, if I'm not mistaken. When they go to the communities, Inuit will want to hear people speaking Inuktitut. That will probably be set up properly. It's more of a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Quassa. The minister motioned he would like to speak to it, so Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's open to anybody who wants to do the work. There's a competition through the request for proposals. If you know of anyone from Nunavut or outside of Nunavut, please apply. I just wanted to say that, as I can't say who will be doing the work right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeeagok. We are on Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,035,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page K-2. Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I noticed this in the budget that there's no capital requirement under Economic Development, no request or very little. I know the minister was speaking recently about Small Business Week just last week. One of the biggest barriers to starting up a small business is access to office space or actual physical space to run your business. I'm wondering if the department has considered in future years building infrastructure for the express purpose of housing small businesses. I believe they're sometimes referred to as incubator malls. (interpretation) I would like to get information on that. We anticipate these types of things in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, when we're looking at our capital plans, it would be desirable to see, but right now we don't have any plans for those types of projects. I want to add further that we try to provide operations and maintenance funding to businesses and we can provide assistance when they're planning for their own buildings or equipment. It's through that avenue right now, but as a

government we don't have any plans to build such facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another need is the purchase of mine training equipment, but if I understand correctly, this is under the responsibility of Arctic College. If capital items became available, for example, the mine training centre in Rankin Inlet that has been considered, would that come under (interpretation ends) economic development (interpretation) in future years or would Arctic College be responsible for that? That's my last one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is for economic development for people who want to start businesses or those who want infrastructure. We try to provide assistance for them. Whether they are non-government agencies or government partners such as the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, (interpretation) we direct them to those loaning agencies. For those who want to construct buildings, we consider options with them. We still haven't put anything in our capital plans for such things, but it's through operations and maintenance or through the lending organizations that we try to provide assistance for businesses and for those who want to start a business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. We are on K-2. Economic Development and Transportation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$10,035,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akeegok, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues, for approving this. We will work extremely hard. With different things coming up, I will keep working hard and I will rely on you and various Inuit organizations. When we collaborate and focus on one thing, it makes our position very strong and it starts becoming reality. That being the case, I'm happy that you have approved this. I'm extremely thankful.

Our officials who work on our reports are listening to us and they're probably noting the requests. I thank our officials. Thank you, people of Nunavut, for listening to us and my colleagues for your support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akeegok. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for being here and providing the information that you did.

With that, I will ask Sergeant-at-Arms if he could please escort the witnesses out. We will take a five-minute break as we get ready for the next department. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 18:48 and resumed at 18:56*

Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2020-2021 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Good evening. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order, please. We will now move on to the Department of Education and I will ask the Minister of Education to deliver his opening comments. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Good evening, Mr. Chairman and members. I am pleased to be here today to present the Department of Education's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates which total \$8,330,000.

The 45 schools across Nunavut represent a significant capital investment and commitment to education. Our schools host 9,339 students from kindergarten to grade 12, with 1,762 in the Kitikmeot region, 2,959 in the Kivalliq region, and 4,618 in the Qikiqtani region.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the following are the capital projects that will continue during the 2020-21 fiscal year across Nunavut. These include:

- The design contract for the Sakku School project in Coral Harbour was awarded in August 2019. The project will give Coral Harbour access to a healthy and code-compliant building,

a large gym, and more services for young children and their parents.

- The Arviligruaq Ilinniarvik in Kugaaruk, which opened to students on August 28, 2019, is in its warranty phase. The warranty phase is used to ensure all building components are performing as intended.
- The design contract for Iqaluit's École des Trois-Soleils addition was awarded in August 2019. The school addition will eliminate the need for shared spaces at Aqsarniit Middle School and Inuksuk High School.
- My department will be upgrading various IT infrastructure projects. There is a need to replace or repair intrusion alarms, CCTVs, paging systems, and telephone systems. There is also an additional need to replace Internet-capable devices, such as computers, modems, routers, SMART Boards, and printers, to ensure they are capable of working with current software.
- My department will continue with its ongoing lifecycle repairs. Lifecycle items include major components of a building, such as foundations, boilers, generators, roofs, siding, flooring, wall finishes, windows, and air handling units. These components require periodic repairs or replacement if they have met or exceeded their intended lifespan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education works to ensure that all capital investments are made with a focus on both energy efficiency and school and student health and safety.

This budget allows us to prioritize our capital projects and those in collaboration with the Department of Community and Government Services. Additionally, this budget also prepares us for any needed repairs or replacements, enabling us to minimize any potential impacts to the delivery of school programs.

Mr. Chairman, my department has various small capital projects which will continue in 2020-21. This budget not only covers projects that are often health and safety related but also small projects, such as wheelchair ramps, chairlifts, and mould remediation.

Lastly, each year we review requests for school buses and departmental vehicles. In 2020-21 we plan to continue our school bus projects as we have in the past.

I look forward to your questions, comments, and analysis as we review the Department of Education's capital estimates for 2020-21. (interpretation)
Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. I will now ask the chairman of the standing committee if she has any opening comments. Ms. Nakashuk, please go ahead.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed capital estimates for 2020-21 include funding for one community-specific project as well as four budget items which will provide funding to meet various Nunavut-wide capital needs for ongoing maintenance issues, school buses, and information technology during the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The new school project in Kugaaruk is in its final warranty year and members were pleased to hear that the facility's grand opening ceremony was recently held in the community.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has noted that the Department of Education's 2020-25 five-year capital plan includes two future school addition projects for Sakku School in Coral Harbour and the French school in Iqaluit, although no funds are being requested for the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year. Standing committee members continue to have questions with respect to what other practical and financial options are taken into consideration when comparing options for proceeding with major renovations instead of building new facilities.

Mr. Chairman, the federal government contributed significantly to the original construction of Nunavut's only French-language school. Members look forward to updates on the department's progress in accessing additional federal funding to help pay for some of the costs of the proposed additions to the French-language school as well as updates on how the scope of the project will be impacted if federal funds are not made available.

Mr. Chairman, the department's representatives have indicated in the past that the prioritization of school-related capital projects is often based on utilization rates which take into account such factors as student enrolments, attendance rates, and existing school capacity. While members have expressed a number of concerns with the department's method of determining school attendance rates, it has also been noted that some communities where schools have experienced ongoing utilization rates of well over 85 percent for several years have not been identified within the capital plan for school addition or replacement projects.

Members continue to urge the department to put greater emphasis on long-term community population trends and anticipated future needs as well as any long-term environmental or aging issues that have been identified when prioritizing its capital planning projects.

Mr. Chairman, members recognize the need for funding to be allocated towards the ongoing maintenance of buildings and other infrastructure, as well as for the upgrading of equipment which is old or out of date. The Department of Education's capital plan again includes four budget areas for the upcoming fiscal year: small capital, ongoing lifecycle, buses, and IT infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports the department in its efforts to ensure that all school facilities and school playgrounds are protected from such destructive acts as vandalism or arson. The standing committee appreciates that such security measures as barriers, extra skirting, heat detectors, intrusion alarms, and additional security

cameras are good protective measures for school buildings. Committee members further recognize that students, parents, educational staff, district education authorities, and communities as a whole can play an important role in supporting the department's efforts to promote safe and respectful attitudes towards the infrastructure that houses our education system as well as other government buildings.

Mr. Chairman, members would appreciate receiving updated information from the department with respect to school busing services across Nunavut. Different communities face different challenges with respect to providing busing services. In some communities new schools have been built at some distance from the community core and threats from wildlife are not uncommon occurrences. Some communities are growing rapidly, while in other communities busing arrangements are further complicated by the lack of secure storage facilities or certified drivers. Members would appreciate receiving information on what consideration has been given to allocating some of the department's capital funds towards the establishment of garages or storage space for community school buses.

Mr. Chairman, computer technology is a standard tool in the delivery of education programs, with Internet access often taken for granted. Technology such as speech enhancement systems improves educational opportunities for students with hearing difficulties. Members are in full support of the department's ongoing plans to keep information technology equipment in Nunavut's schools up to date.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening statements on the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates for the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have comments and questions as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Report of the 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 Bill 30 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Minister Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Continuing on with the orders of the day. Third Reading of Bills. There are none. Continuing on. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 30:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 36
 - Bill 37
18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 8
- Bill 29
- Bill 30
- Bill 31
- Bill 32
- Bill 33
- Bill 34

20. Report of the Committee of the
Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
The Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
stands adjourned until Wednesday,
October 30, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:13*

Appendix – October 29, 2019



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

***Report on the Review of the 2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada
to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on
Support for High School Students and Adult Learners***

**2nd Session of the 5th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Fall 2019 Sitting**

Chairperson

John Main

Co-Chairperson

Cathy Towntongie

Members

Tony Akoak

Pat Angnakak

Joelie Kaernerik

Mila Kamingoak

Pauloosie Keyootak

Adam Arreak Lightstone

Margaret Nakashuk

David Qamaniq

Emiliano Qirngnuq

Paul Quassa

Allan Rumbolt

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Introduction

The *2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 4, 2019.

The Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts held a hearing on the Auditor General's report from September 25 to September 26, 2019. The standing committee's hearing was televised live across the territory and was open to the public and news media to observe from the Visitors' Gallery. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearing may be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

During the hearing, staff from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada appeared before the standing committee and senior officials from the Department of Education, Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Family Services also appeared as witnesses on behalf of the Government of Nunavut.

In 2013, the Auditor General of Canada conducted an audit on *Education in Nunavut*. That report contained a number of recommendations to the Department of Education. The department did develop an *Education Act Implementation Work Plan* and its progress in achieving some of the objectives listed in that work plan can be followed in its subsequent Annual Reports which were tabled in March of 2018 for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 annual years and, more recently, the Annual Report for 2016-2017 which was tabled on March 4, 2019. While the Office of the Auditor General's 2019 report is not a direct follow-up to its 2013 report, it was noted that a number of issues identified in the 2013 report were still ongoing.

Also following the 2013 report, a standing committee of the Legislative Assembly conducted a review of the *Education Act* as mandated within the statute. Additionally, a bill proposing amendments to the *Education Act* was introduced during the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut's Fourth Assembly, but did not pass. Currently, Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, is currently before the Standing Committee on Legislation. This review of the *2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners* does not address these initiatives.

The Auditor General's 2019 report is based on a wide scope audit covering the activities of three different departments or entities and addressing the needs of both youth and adults who are at very different stages of the learning process. As noted by the Assistant Auditor General during the hearing, despite examining differing and distinct circumstances faced by high school students and adult learners, the audit provides an overview of the government's overall success in providing educational opportunities and supports to Nunavummiut as it progresses towards meeting the obligation of Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement* which is to have a Nunavut workforce that is reflective of the Inuit population of Nunavut.

Observations and Recommendations

Issue: Government of Nunavut Action Plans

The *2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners* contained a total of 12 specific recommendations. These were formally responded to by the entities in the report:

- Department of Education: 9 recommendations
- Nunavut Arctic College: 2 recommendations
- Department of Family Services: 1 recommendation

The responding entities formally agreed to all twelve of the Auditor General's specific recommendations. The Government of Nunavut submitted an updated response just prior to its appearance before the standing committee during the televised hearing. (Attached as an addendum to this report.) A number of the responses indicated that work towards addressing some of the Auditor General's recommendations would be initiated in upcoming academic or fiscal years.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide annual stand-alone updates to the Legislative Assembly on specific actions taken to implement the recommendations contained in the *2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners*.

The standing committee further recommends that the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College include in their Annual Reports updates on specific initiatives undertaken to address the recommendations contained in the *2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners* as well as such information as detailed statistics on drop out rates and the results of assessments conducted, the use of Nunavut Arctic College facilities to provide Nunavut Arctic College funded courses during the evenings, weekends and summer periods, and detailed statistics on the number of College graduates who succeed in gaining employment in their chosen field of study.

Issue: Departmental Collaboration

While each department or entity audited by the Office of the Auditor General in the *2019 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support for High School Students and Adult Learners* has distinct responsibilities with respect to the supports and services it provides to Nunavummiut, some overlap does exist with respect to the client populations served by each entity.

The Department of Education has responsibility for Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Operations which leads to the graduation of High School students. The Department of Education also has an Advanced Education division for adult learning, including the Pathway to Adult Secondary School program which provides an option for adults to obtain their High School diploma, as well as developing such programs as those which focus on training educators like Student Support Assistants.

The Department of Family Services' Career Development division develops and implements plans which focus on career and labour market training in order to meet the needs within Nunavut's labour force, and also provides program development in such areas as apprenticeship. Currently, the Department offers two types of funding programs to support further education: the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) who are attending post-secondary education institutions, and the Adult Learning and Training Support (ALTS) for clients participating in non-post-secondary training programs. Nunavut High School graduates as well as youth who have progressed through the school system without graduating and adults are potential candidates for training opportunities as well as for funding supports.

Nunavut Arctic College offers adult learning opportunities from core Adult Basic Education programs, to delivering the Pathway to Adult Secondary School program, to a number of accredited post-secondary degree programs, including in the field of education. Again, Nunavut High School graduates as well as youth who have progressed through the school system without graduating and adults are potential candidates for ongoing education options delivered by Nunavut Arctic College.

During the course of the hearings, a number of opportunities were identified for departmental or College representatives to conduct outreach activities to guide and inform youth and adults of further education and training opportunities following graduation and, potentially, recruit candidates into programs leading to employment within Nunavut's labour force.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, indicate what actions have been taken to date to improve collaboration between government departments and Nunavut Arctic College to provide guidance and support to both High School students and Adult Learners to further assist them in progressing towards post-secondary and employment opportunities;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clarify what barriers exist that prevent interdepartmental collaboration;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a summary of where shared areas of responsibility exist between the Deaprtments of Education and Familiy Services and Nunavut Arctic College;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a rationale for why the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students division is being transferred to the department of Education from the Department of Family Services.

Issue: Supports for High School Students

During the course of the hearing a number of specific issues were identified with respect to supports for High School students.

Members repeatedly raised the issue of providing opportunities for alternative learning and graduation paths for students. The potential for providing such courses as hands-on programs, pre-trades training, work place training and other non-academic learning options was highlighted. It was noted that providing a greater variety of learning options as well as delivering specialized programs could be an effective means to incentivize youth to stay in school as well as broadening the options they may consider for future careers or employment.

Testimony from witnesses during the hearings revealed that very few high schools across Nunavut had dedicated guidance counsellors and that career planning by students was often not completed. Best practices from other jurisdictions were discussed, including an initiative underway in the NWT to establish a mobile team of guidance counsellors who will travel to provide career planning support to students in different high schools across the territory. Members also discussed school staffing issues and it was noted that the Department of Education is considering laddering opportunities for school staff to access training to be able to take on the guidance counsellor role.

Standing Committee members expressed a number of concerns with the Department of Education's current methodology for determining staffing levels in Nunavut community schools. Suggestions included re-evaluating the department's formula for determining staff numbers at schools to take into account student enrolment data instead of attendance data as well as reconsidering whether certain staff members, such as principals, vice-principals or guidance counsellors, should be included when determining the student educator ratios in each school.

Committee members also expressed concerns regarding the Department of Education's assessment activities. It was noted that departmental assessments currently seem to focus on identifying areas where individual students may require adjustments to succeed in school instead of determining whether students have achieved the specific learning goals of a specific grade level before being promoted to the next level of schooling. Members noted that the overall results of the department's grade-specific assessments are not made available through such public documents as the department's annual reports. Given that student preparedness to progress from Grade 9 into the higher level grades was identified as one of the factors determining whether a student could successfully complete Grade 10 and, ultimately, to graduate, some Members were of the view that the department's assessment policies should be reviewed.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, address what options and related timelines are being considered to deliver alternative or multiple graduation options for High School students across Nunavut;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, indicate what specific options for hands-on or pre-trades training are being considered for future delivery in Nunavut's schools;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, indicate what specific hands-on or pre-trades training have been delivered in Nunavut's schools, including such information as what partnerships have been established to deliver hands-on and pre-trades courses and how much funding has been allocated to hands-on and pre-trades courses;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, state its position on re-introducing a revised version of the Nunavut Early Apprenticeship Training (NEAT) program in Nunavut schools;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a breakdown of the anticipated costs of establishing a food program in all of Nunavut's schools including the costs associated with staffing and space allocation in order to support students to stay in school;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a breakdown of what specific activities are being undertaken in order to improve school attendance and encourage students to stay in school;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, clearly explain why current school funding formulas are based on attendance data and not enrolment data and what alternatives school funding formulas are being considered;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, provide a cross-jurisdiction summary of how school funding formulas are determined in other jurisdictions across Canada;

Issue: Supports for Adult Learners

During the course of the hearing, a number of specific issues were identified with respect to supports for Adult Learners.

Members are in full support of efforts being made by the Department of Family Services to conduct further outreach to clients and divert them away from Income Assistance programs and provide encouragement and promote alternatives that lead to training and employment. It was noted that funding and benefits for clients registered under the Adult Learning and Training Support program can be significantly higher than funding and benefits received under the Income Assistance program. Concerns were raised that Income Assistance clients were not always receiving the same supports to undertake training courses as other adult learners. Testimony from witnesses during the hearings indicated that efforts are underway to better integrate client information from both the Income Assistance and the Adult Learning and Training Support programs to better identify ways to support individual clients and their families.

Standing Committee expressed some concern with respect the low number of Adult Basic Education core programs being delivered at the community level and the lack of opportunities for adult learners to access the programming necessary to successfully complete the Pathways for Adult Secondary School requirements to obtain a High School diploma.

It should be noted that just prior to the Standing Committee hearing, a cabinet press release announced that the Funding for Nunavut Students program (FANS) would be returned to the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. When the Auditor General's audit was being conducted, the FANS program was under the jurisdiction of the Department of Family Services.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, indicate what consideration has been given to providing financial support for adult learners taking Adult Basic Education core programs;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut identify and act to remove barriers that prevent adult learners from accessing learning opportunities;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut, in its response to this report, describe what financial assumptions are preventing the allocation of dedicated core funding for the delivery of Adult Basic Education core programs including the costs of staffing, space and programming and indicate what the actual cost of delivery of Adult Basic Education Core programs would be.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut consider providing more options for part-time adult learners with the addition of evening courses, summer courses and other alternative program delivery options;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut ensure that all Community Learning Centres have enough space to adequately accommodate community needs;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut strengthen the linkages between Income Support programs and the delivery of Adult Basic Education programs;

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide real alternatives to the Income Support program to adults in Nunavut's communities;

The standing committee further recommends that Nunavut Arctic College enhance its outreach activities by displaying its promotional videos in Income Support offices in order that Income Support clients may be informed of College programs while they wait for their appointments with the Income Support Worker.

Issue: Commitments to provide information

During the course of the hearings, representatives from Department of Education, Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Family Services all made a number of commitments to provide additional information to the Standing Committee.

Standing Committee Recommendation #5:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide the Standing Committee with the information items that were committed to during the course of the hearing on September 25 and 26, 2019, at the earliest opportunity.