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**DAY 68**

**Friday, November 1, 2019**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak**  
(Baker Lake)

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(Quttiktuq)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation*

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(Amittuq)

**David Qamaniq**  
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**Mila Kamingoak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Emiliano Qirngnuq**  
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**Pat Angnakak**  
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

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(Rankin Inlet South)  
*Minister of Community and  
Government Services; Minister of  
Human Resources*

**Allan Rumbolt**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the  
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**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for  
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq  
Energy Corporation*

**Adam Lightstone**  
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq**  
(Arviat South)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive and  
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of  
Energy; Minister of Environment;  
Minister responsible for Aboriginal  
Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
Utility Rates Review Council*

**Hon. George Hickey**  
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responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister  
responsible for the Workers' Safety and  
Compensation Commission*

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

**Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

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

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

**Cathy Towtongie**  
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield  
Inlet)

### *Officers*

Clerk

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Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk  
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Michel Albert

Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

*Box 1200*

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0*

*Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266*

*Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, November 1, 2019**

**Members Present:**

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

>>House commenced at 9:00

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Before we proceed, let us pray.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Continuing on with the orders of the day. Before we proceed further, good morning to the people of Baker Lake and all Nunavummiut.

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 328 – 5(2):  
Recognition of New Board  
Member**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. To the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour, I say “good

morning” to you.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise this morning to inform the members of a recent appointment to the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) Cathy Aitaok of Cambridge Bay was recently appointed to a three-year term as a member of the board of governors at Nunavut Arctic College. To say she is well suited for this position would be an understatement. (interpretation ends) Currently Ms. Aitaok is the coordinator for the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. This program is designed to provide Inuit with transferable skills to increase their opportunity for employment in a wide variety of sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to state that Ms. Aitaok advocates for lifelong learning in her community. She actively encourages people of all ages to pursue educational programs, reminding people that they can always go back to school. Her commitment to education comes from her own experience as a Nunavut Arctic College graduate. She holds a Diploma in Management Studies. Mr. Speaker, I am filled with pride and gratitude when I see graduates from our college programs commit themselves in helping students continue with their academic journey.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also acknowledge that in the spring of 2016, Ms. Aitaok travelled to Edmonton with her family to attend a symposium at Camsell Hospital. *Uqaqtii*, Camsell Hospital is the facility that Inuit from the Kitikmeot were sent to for medical

assistance, including tuberculosis care. At this symposium, Ms. Aitaok spoke on behalf of her family, making sure that the history and experience of Inuit from her community and region is not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited at the prospect of working with a member of the board of governors who embodies such responsibility toward supporting on the belief that we all share. Join me in welcoming Ms. Aitaok to the board of governors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

**Minister's Statement 329 – 5(2):  
Operational Shift at Baffin  
Correctional Centre**

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good morning, everyone, especially those in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce an important operational shift taking place at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Our correctional facility is moving away from the traditional custody model to a more culturally appropriate and restorative model that is focused on healing.

In the movement toward restorative practices, the Baffin Correctional Centre has initiated peer councils. Although this model is in its early stages, the peer councils are made up of inmates who are elected from within each living unit. The

inmates chosen for these positions are expected to model good behaviour, give peer support to other inmates, and work cooperatively with facility staff to maintain order on the unit.

When incidents arise within a unit, peer council members attend a restorative justice gathering with the unit staff and supervisor in order to discuss alternatives to conventional, institutional measures. Peer council members also help provide mediation support for conflict resolution and help with program development.

Mr. Speaker, this operational shift at the Baffin Correctional Centre is in line with Inuit societal values, particularly *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, respecting others and caring for people, and *Ajiiqatigiingniq*, decision-making through discussion and consensus. It also responds to the *Turaaqtavut* mandate principle *Inuusivut* by working towards the well-being and self-reliance of our people. This new operational model will improve the rehabilitation of offenders in Nunavut by focusing on healing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Family Services, Minister Akeegok.

**Minister's Statement 330 – 5(2):  
Nunavut Food Security Coalition  
Community Project Funding**

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, food insecurity in Nunavut remains a widespread issue and the impacts are far-reaching: increasing our risk to health

problems, impacting our mental health, lowering our learning and working capacity, and placing stress on our families and communities.

(interpretation ends) Communities continue to play a critical role in addressing food insecurity in unique and innovative ways. Every year the Food Security Coalition provides funding to community projects that aim to reduce food insecurity by strengthening life skills and knowledge related to country food and store-bought foods; promoting country food as a foundational food for Nunavummiut; and enhancing nutrition programming in schools.

The coalition is co-chaired by the department and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and it brings partners together to look at how policies and programs can make food more accessible and affordable and supports community efforts that improve access to food for those most vulnerable to hunger.

For fiscal year 2019-2020, the coalition is supporting 10 community-based food security projects for a total of \$200,000. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of these projects, including:

- The Taloyoak Harvester Youth Mentorship Program, which involves youth harvesting food for feasts and special occasions on a monthly basis and distributing country food within the community;
- The Ilitaqsiniq Nunavut Literacy Council's Rankin Inlet Niqiliri – Traditional Caribou Preparation, which will teach youth and young

adults the processes, techniques, tips, and skills of preparing and preserving caribou, led by the elders of Rankin Inlet;

- The Gjoa Haven Country Food Lunch Project, which engages students of Quqshuun Ilihakvik Elementary School to learn to make their own healthy lunches using country food;
- The Clyde River Harvesting Youth Mentorship Program, which involves hunters teaching youth hunting skills; and
- The Inuksuk High School Lunch Program, which mentors five grades 10 to 12 students to prepare and serve country food for lunch three days a week.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers that make these initiatives possible and their efforts in achieving food security in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 331 – 5(2):  
“Learn to...” Summer Series**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to



provide an update on a successful and innovative program run by the Department of Environment over the summer.

Mr. Speaker, our territorial parks are an ideal place for Nunavummiut to learn and uphold their traditional knowledge. I believe it is especially important that our youth have opportunities to learn and practise our traditional skills.

It is with that in mind that the Department of Environment has supported traditional learning process through the “Learn to...” series of tutorials at the Sylvia Grinnell and Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga territorial parks.

Over the summer over 200 youth attended workshops guided by elders and members of the communities in both Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. “Learn to...” participants learned drum dancing, throat singing, soapstone carving, and much more. The programs were well-attended by community members and visitors of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud Environment was able to offer programming to foster Inuit heritage and culture on our *nuna*. I encourage all Nunavummiut to take advantage of our Nunavut’s territorial parks and appreciate everything our beautiful land has to offer in every season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on with the orders of the day. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

### Item 3: Members’ Statements

#### **Member’s Statement 509 – 5(2): Appreciation of Iqaluit Community Theatre**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I would just like to state that we here in Iqaluit had a very well receptive Halloween last evening. I lost count of the number of children that we had visiting our house last night, but I will admit that we probably gave away too much candy, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to give a big thank you to the Iqaluit Community Theatre Society, which hosted an indoor Halloween event last night at the Frobisher Inn in which I and my son took part in and he wholeheartedly enjoyed it. Once again I really appreciate the efforts of the society and look forward to participating again next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member’s Statement 510 – 5(2): Nunavut’s Infrastructure Deficit**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I remembered to stand up this morning. (interpretation) Good morning, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, people of Nunavut have expectations from the Government of Nunavut for infrastructure. For example, elder facilities and housing are expected, as well as schools and other expensive infrastructure like that. Nunavut is really lacking those pieces of infrastructure.

We all know that.

However, we have been the government for two years now and I can regretfully say to my constituents this morning that we haven't been creating much infrastructure that we can see in my constituency communities of Arviat and Whale Cove, such as parking garages.

The Department of Community and Government Services wrote a letter on October 22 and I'll read what it states in English. (interpretation ends) "...23 communities are operating at a deficit for parking space and a number of garages are past their service life." (interpretation) It also states, (interpretation ends) "Providing section heated parking garages for proper water and sewage truck parking should be a priority to ensure the safe delivery of water to the residents of Nunavut."

(interpretation) In Arviat they have an expectation and these documents state that the hamlet council has indicated for a long time that they need this and it is a priority in their integrated community sustainability plan. However, there will be nothing created in this coming year. We don't know when one will be built. I just say I give my regrets to the Hamlet of Arviat and I'll be asking more questions about this at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towtongie.

**Member's Statement 511 – 5(2):  
Rankin Inlet Long-term Care  
Facility**

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak strongly in favour of the proposed new Kivalliq long-term care facility.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that all Members of this House are fully committed to improving care for our elders, and ensuring that we no longer need to send them out of the territory to spend their remaining years in strange and unfamiliar places, separated from their families and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I completely understand the concerns that are voiced by my colleagues about the issues surrounding our elders, and they voice the need to provide facilities for our elders today. However, I believe that only through collaborative partnership can we move forward to try to develop the facilities that are causing concerns amongst our people.

Mr. Speaker, having been around government for a long time, from the time I was a young person, I know that that no plan is perfect, and I recognize the need for the government to make further efforts to refine and clarify its long-term plans for elders' care in Nunavut. This is understandable from that perspective.

Nonetheless, I recently answered a phone call from a person in Whale Cove who stated that Arviat was signing a petition that they had read through the news media. The elder stated that he would support Rankin Inlet as it is centrally located with the outlying communities of Naujaat, Coral Harbour, Chesterfield Inlet, and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, we found out that the

regional mayors of the Kivalliq supported this initiative with a resolution supporting that.

I am asking for 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. Please proceed, Member Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank my colleagues.

Now, with the resolution that the hamlet mayors approved, I want to state that myself and my colleague Mr. Kusugak did not attend that meeting, neither did we urge the mayors to draft up a resolution. I want it clear that neither of us were involved. The Kivalliq mayors drafted up the resolution themselves.

I want to publicly state it so that it is on the government's record. (interpretation ends) The wording of the motion deserves to be entered into the permanent public record of this House.

“Whereas residents of the Kivalliq region have a moral duty to the care and protection of our Elders, and whereas Elders are better off in their home communities or their home region, now therefore be it resolved that Kivalliq Mayors support immediate action on the construction of an Elders [care] facility in Rankin Inlet so we may support our Elders with dignity.”

I also recognize the legitimate concerns raised by a number of my colleagues concerning the lack of clarity

surrounding the future use of existing facilities. We need to work together to find ways to move forward while addressing these concerns. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak

**Member's Statement 512 – 5(2):  
Happy Birthday to Grandchild**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the residents of Rankin Inlet. With the weekend arriving and many residents will be going hunting on the weekend, I urge everyone to be careful and stay safe, especially the younger hunters who plan to go out hunting on the land.

Today I, too, have my share of grandchildren and when you are working in Iqaluit, you really yearn to see your beloved young ones, especially your grandchildren.

Today Amajurdjuk Ookpik Pakak is celebrating his birthday today and he is turning five years old today. I would like to wish him a wonderful birthday. (interpretation ends) Happy birthday to my Piipinnaas. (interpretation) Let us all have a wonderful day today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 513 – 5(2):  
Recognition of Cape Dorset Artists**

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the residents of South Baffin.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Cape Dorset print shop that was opened through the Kinngait Co-op. It has been in existence now for 60 years with the 60th annual print collection, celebrated as an annual event. There are many artists who have contributed prints for the Cape Dorset annual print show.

However, I want to single out these following artists because their prints will be sold as part of the sales. I want to start with:

- Ningiukulu Teevee
- Saimaiyu Akesuk
- Oqituq Ashoona
- Olooreak Etungat
- Enosik Ottokie
- Pee Ashevak
- Qavavau Manumie
- Ooloosie Saila
- Mosese Mangitak
- Pudloo Samayualie
- Nicotye Samayualie
- Killiktee Killiktee
- Pauojoungie Saggiak
- Sita Saila
- Pitaloosie Saila
- Nuna Parr
- Quvianaqtuq Pudlat

Mr. Speaker, the print sales ensure that artists are able to derive some income from their artwork printed in Cape Dorset. Further, I want to acknowledge this younger person who is one of the

younger ones, Ooloosie Saila who was interviewed for *The New York Times* newspaper about her prints and her history of beginning drawings. That article is a good read.

Although we have younger artists now working, they are quickly catching up to the level of the older print artists, so we are very proud of them. I also thank our Co-op for encouraging our people to work in the arts, both in our community and elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 514 – 5(2): Grise  
Fiord's Final Sunset for the  
Winter**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, tomorrow is the last day of the very (interpretation ends) orange (interpretation) round object which we will see every day in Iqaluit for the entire winter, but in Grise Fiord this is the last day before the sun disappears for the upcoming dark season. The next time they see the sun will be in February.

As the residents of the High Arctic are in different situation at this time, the sea ice has not even formed and it has continually been windy with rough waters, yet they have no sea ice. In the old days we would already be catching seals in their breathing holes through the ice, which is still memorable to me. Something is going on with our seas and although it is strange, our lives continue on a daily basis.

We should keep in mind that the residents past the Arctic Circle will be sunless for several months, and although they can't hunt on the sea ice, they will need to find ways to hunt seals. We will need to start learning to boat much longer perhaps. This weird weather may cause some people to go through hardship, especially the people who subsist on marine mammals. I have them in my thoughts.

Although they suffer through hardship, I am just providing this information about the sun and when you see it today, keep in mind that some residents of Nunavut will no longer see the sun until the calendar hits February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Continuing on. Returns to Questions. Continuing on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 687 – 5(2): Conservation Officers

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Chesterfield Inlet recently lost one of their elders, and first of all, we empathize as Elizabeth Arnaaluk Kreelak, who was a wonderful singer, passed on. You are in our thoughts, residents of Chesterfield Inlet. I also say "good morning" to the residents of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister will very much appreciate, I believe that the work of his department's conservation officers is vital to the safety of our communities. Mr. Speaker, conservation officers need to be able to respond to emergencies, such as polar bear sightings, at all hours of the day or night, and they need to be able to respond quickly.

Can the minister clarify his department's policy regarding the ability of conservation officers to have access to their working vehicles after hours? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the conservation officers are performing their duties properly both within the community and they work hard. With respect to the question about conservation officers conducting patrols, some of them have vehicles, but all of them have Hondas, skidoos, and boats that are for their official duties. When they are working, that is when they are using the equipment and usually the vehicles aren't used after working hours. The role is to use the equipment to perform their duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towntongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe that our conservation officers

need to be paid fairly and treated equally, given their frequent on-call status. Can the minister clarify his department's policy regarding standby pay for conservation officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conservation officers are under the union agreement just like all the GN employees and there are different agreements with different sectors of the union. With conservation officers, there is no standby pay. They are on call, but there is no standby pay. When they do get a callout, they are compensated for their time out, either the actual hours worked or a minimum of four hours for a callout. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that in Chesterfield Inlet our wildlife officer uses his own vehicle when he responds to polar bear calls, but my question is our conservation offices should be regarded as "first responders," given their role in addressing emergency situations. Can the minister describe what additional benefits and training are provided to conservation officers in recognition of their responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify one thing first, the conservation officers are provided equipment and they should not be using

their own equipment during working hours as there are liability issues. We provide them with the equipment. Not all conservation officers have vehicles or trucks, just some of them, but a conservation officer is not expected to and should not use their own equipment for work. The government provides equipment for them to use at work.

As for the training portion, we train our conservation officers well. Every year they come here to Iqaluit to get whatever required training is needed once a year. If they need any specialized training to do with their job, it can be requested or at times it is requested by the department that the officers take certain training, whatever it may be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 688 – 5(2): Alternative and Renewable Energy Projects in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the people of Sanikiluaq and a big happy birthday to my son, Garry, who turns 25 today.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation and they concern the issue of alternative and renewable energies.

As the minister will recall, the federal government announced funding in September 2018 for the installation of new district heating systems in

Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak. The Sanikiluaq project will connect our community's two schools to the heating system.

When I asked for an update on the status of this Sanikiluaq project during the Legislative Assembly's winter sitting, the minister advised me that the project had been approved for the 2019-2020 fiscal year but that the tender had not yet been issued. Can the minister update me today on the status of this project? 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) Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt, for your question. Unfortunately I have no updates on that file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Rumbolt**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My follow-up question was going to be further to that. Assuming she doesn't have the information, I'll just move on to my final supplementary. Well, I was going to ask about how much fuel consumption this kind of project was going to save, but hopefully the minister can get back to me with more information at a later date.

Moving on, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has ranked Sanikiluaq as being one of the top five communities in Nunavut with the greatest potential for wind energy. As the minister may be

aware, a subsidiary of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has also been working on a wind project in Sanikiluaq. Can the minister update me today on the extent of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's involvement with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Ehaloak.

**Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again, Mr. Rumbolt, I'm sorry but I don't have that information, but Sanikiluaq is listed for potential wind energy. The member is correct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Are you done? Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

#### **Question 689 – 5(2): Update on Tuberculosis Screening**

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

Mr. Speaker, we all know that in our community there was tuberculosis screening done or still being conducted. We know that my constituency community was the first community to be screened for tuberculosis as the disease is trying to get eradicated.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister give us an update on the project? Perhaps the minister can indicate if it's still running. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The community-wide screening that was done in Qikiqtarjuaq was a very successful endeavour. There was a high percentage of the population participated, which I really appreciate.

Again, through our patient relations office, we did go into the community and do follow-up interviews with residents of the community to get some feedback. We used some of that information to go out into other community-wide screenings and we are evaluating the data, the effectiveness, and the information that we have gathered from both those enterprises and working with Health Canada and with ITK and NTI to see when, where, and if we will be moving on to other communities.

We're still evaluating the impact of those community-wide screenings and I look forward to updating the House when those results come to me. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Keyootak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clarification. Mr. Speaker, my community was the first community screened for this disease and I'm sure there are results pending. Can the minister indicate how many people had tuberculosis when the screening started and how many people have tuberculosis now? Will the minister be going to the community to provide the results of the screening, or what avenue is he using to provide that information?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Depending upon the number of cases, due to privacy we are limited to how much detail we can respond with, but I would be more than happy to discuss with the member what information I could share publicly or privately with the member. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Okay, the member is done. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

**Question 690 – 5(2):  
Intergovernmental Relations**

**Ms. Angnakak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, now that the dust has settled a little bit after the recent federal election, I wanted to take some time to dig a little deeper into the Premier's announcement on September 9. In this announcement he indicated that our government would “Engage more proactively and frequently with the new federal government to provide Nunavummiut with the same standards and opportunities as Canadians in other jurisdictions,” which is a good quote.

As the Premier will most definitely recall, a significant number of federal announcements were made this past summer, including a \$151 million funding promise related to fibre infrastructure.



Mr. Speaker, the reality is that Nunavut's two parliamentarians in the House of Commons and the Senate both sit in opposition to the federal government.

What assurances has the Premier received from the Prime Minister that the federal promises will be honoured? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier of Nunavut, Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Yes, the dust has settled and as I stated earlier before, we should have elections every year for the number of announcements that were made to be spent in Nunavut.

>> *Laughter*

We only have them every four years, so we will take what we can.

I have had a phone call with the Prime Minister and I have told him about our needs and he is quite aware of them. I can't speak on behalf of him, but the commitments he made before the election, he was the Prime Minister and after the election, he is still the Prime Minister, so I will hold him to his word that those are commitments he made and I assume that he will live up to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's announcement of September 9 also made

reference to "renewing partnerships with the regional, territorial and national Inuit organizations to strengthen planning and amplifying our voices."

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that there has been a lack of clarity concerning the nature of the relationships between the federal government, ourselves, and organizations like ITK, given that we are the ones who are expected to deliver the services to Nunavummiut and given that we are the ones who are directly and democratically accountable at the ballot box to Nunavummiut. Does the Premier expect this relationship to become any clearer given the new minority government in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have met with the ITK president and the NTI president on this matter just to get more clarity and see exactly where we fit in this new system of funding that happens to some specific projects that are Inuit-specific and we're still working with them.

What I have always said is that as long as it's plus what we normally get, that's a good thing because it will mean more funding for Nunavut, whatever that funding is for, whether it's for tuberculosis or maybe housing in the future or whatever project that is Inuit-specific. We will go through ITK and we will work with them.

The member is correct; we are the service providers. We know what is needed and what has to be done more so than non-service providers. We will be

working with our partners to make sure that we live up to our responsibilities and that we can fulfill the services that are needed with proper funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the new federal cabinet has not yet been announced, but it's important that we are ready to engage with them on day number one. As the Premier is aware, close to a quarter of our territory's population lives here in Iqaluit and the city is facing a significant water infrastructure challenge, just as my colleague mentioned, so as other Nunavut communities. This is a very important issue. Can the Premier confirm that funding to assist with this issue will be a top priority of the territorial government in its discussions with Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Savikataaq.

**Hon. Joe Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to assure the member that as soon as cabinet is announced by the federal government, our cabinet will be meeting with our counterparts; if they are new ministers, educating them on our needs; if they are the same ministers with the same portfolio, re-educating them and reminding them of our needs.

I have I told the Prime Minister on many occasions that we are so lacking in infrastructure and needs here in Nunavut that we're not even at the start line. We need to have the same services that are offered to southern Canada up here in

Nunavut. We're far from there and the Prime Minister understood that. We will be working with the federal government to make sure that Nunavut's needs are on their radar, are important, and that that they are funded properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Question 691 – 5(2): Airport Infrastructure and Safety**

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to my fellow residents of Netsilik and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I would like to begin by again thanking the ministers who attended the opening of Taloyoak's new airport terminal building. I was very pleased to have been able to vote in favour of approving funding for the Taloyoak Air Terminal Building.

Mr. Speaker, the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment Report* indicates that Taloyoak Airport's runway was last rehabilitated in the year 2013, over five years ago. Can the minister indicate how often the runway's condition is assessed to determine if repairs or upgrades are needed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. The gravel resurfacing of the airports are planned for every 15 years and some upgrades are needed after eight years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. As I have noted on a number of occasions, airport safety is extremely important, and I pay tribute to the airport and airline staff in Taloyoak and Kugaaruk who work hard every day to keep the flying public safe by snow clearing and so on.

My question is...my apologies. In his reply to a written question that was asked during the spring sitting, the minister indicated that a quality assurance audit of the Kugaaruk Airport took place in the year 2018. Will the minister commit to providing both the municipal council and me with a copy of the full audit report in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for recognizing our employees in the airports who do snow clearing. They do a great job, as air transportation is very important. Once I find out what the status of the assessment is, I can write a letter to the member and the hamlet council. I don't have documents

on that right now. I will want to provide a proper reply to that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is regarding my other constituency community of Taloyoak. The minister's response will probably be the same. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akeeagok.

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you. I will be able to report to the members on the status of those two communities. I would like to remind my colleagues that for the 20-year plan on airports, we are planning another assessment and we expect that to be done in this fiscal year. All the communities' airports are assessed to determine their condition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 692 – 5(2): Parking Garage Replacement Program**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as per my statement earlier, many communities face severe shortages of adequate space for housing their vehicles, or (interpretation ends) parking

garages, (interpretation) as that is one facility every community clamours for.

Now, in looking at the regional plans, it states that the goal is to work towards a new (interpretation ends) parking garage replacement program. (interpretation) To date it would seem that every winter within Nunavut they are going to replace one garage, which began in 2010. However, when this new program is created, my understanding is that the goal is to build three garages annually as part of their plans.

My first question to the minister is: when will this new program for Nunavut begin fulfilling its role of replacing garages? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. I wished happy birthday to my grandchild, so I thank you for allowing me to do so.

It's obvious that the communities are really lacking parking garages. When I go to Arviat, it seems like they don't sleep, as their vehicles go non-stop. Water and sewage services never stop, and vehicles are increasing in number. They're not caught up on their garage space, which is not a good situation, Mr. Speaker.

Once the assessment of the three communities is done, it will become clear if three or four vehicle garages are needed. As soon as the design and construction costs are identified, the three community garages will be built in

Nunavut a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am asking: when will the construction start for parking garages? What year? When will construction begin on the garages that are needed in Nunavut? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be asking for funding in 2020 for the construction of the garages. We are now budgeting for the costs, design, and what will be contained. I think I answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. We will be expecting the budget to be announced in 2020 and construction to finally begin in 2021 within Nunavut. According to the document, the community of Arviat will not be one of the communities. Looking at the three communities, Arviat is not one of them, even though it is one of the highest priorities.

I like the letter that I received, that regional centres are considering if municipal governments can undertake those projects themselves and build garages. I don't know what (interpretation ends) project management (interpretation) is in

Inuktitut. I'm aware that the municipal government in Arviat has been considering this for a long time. Can the minister indicate how they can work with the municipalities that want to construct the garages themselves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy that there is that desire by communities. I don't want them to just hold out their hands, but if they want to be involved, saying "We would like to build it if we get funding," in some cases they have indicated that they can build it at less cost. We're not just hearing that; we want to use that avenue.

This year there was a meeting in Iqaluit with the hamlet SAOs and some mayors were involved. They discussed how hamlets can get more into building infrastructure and how they can manage projects. Perhaps they can do it in a better way and for less money. We support the hamlets. We are working right now on the water delivery and sewage trucks. They charge their own money for operations. The hamlets hold onto that money to be used for replacing vehicles or getting extra vehicles. That money is slated to be used for that.

We are working on it right now and we are in discussions with the SAOs and mayors. Maybe some of the money can be used for building garages for the working vehicles. We are looking into that right now and I urge the hamlets to see that come to fruition. I want them to be able to do the work themselves, the ones that have the capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 693 – 5(2): Alcohol Education Committees**

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

Before I ask my question today, I will say this in Inuktitut: qu-gu-u-ta, TGIF in English. I just said it in Inuktitut.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House we recently amended the *Nunavut Elections Act*, and the (interpretation ends) *Plebiscites and Elections Regulations* (interpretation) are new. We also know that it will affect elections, including the alcohol education committees in our communities.

My first question to the minister is: can he tell the members and the communities how the recent amendment to the *Nunavut Elections Act* affects the local alcohol education committees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question and in fact I commend a number of the members. My officials with the Department of Finance noticed before the deadline for applicants to run

for alcohol education committees, we noticed some communities didn't have enough members, so we sent letters out to the MLAs, including the member's community, which had a very large turnout of people applying after the member, I think, went on the radio to ask for more people to step up and step forward.

Mr. Speaker, in direct response to the member's question, this previous September there were some changes to the *Elections Act* that did have an impact on the elections of alcohol education committees, specifically so some of them were grandfathered under the 1986 legislation so that the community can appoint members to the committee if there were not enough people to run, but for alcohol education committees that came into existence after that date, they actually have to have an election.

We had three communities that did not have enough members for their alcohol education committee. Two of those were grandfathered and one of them is not, so we actually have to hold a by-election until that committee is legally entitled to be able to import alcohol again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, we all know that in Nunavut each community has voted for different alcohol management styles, whether the community is a dry one with no alcohol allowed in or the opposite, as they are all different.

In Igloolik our hamlet is a (interpretation

ends) restricted (interpretation) community, and the regulations for ordering alcohol are made available such as the size of bottles or overall quantity that can be ordered in. This is how the restricted communities manage their alcohol.

Now, I wonder what would have happened, if we look at Igloolik for example, if not enough candidates stepped forward or if no candidates ran in our community of Igloolik. What would have happened? What is the general practice in this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thankfully that didn't occur, but what would have happened and what did happen in one community, as of October 28, they are now not a restricted community but a prohibited community because there is no one there to approve import permits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the community votes on their status and how they will manage the importation of alcohol, in looking at the default setting within the legislation, it is troubling since it dissolves the prior vote allowing alcohol to be managed. I hope that was clear. When a community votes, they have to use the legislation to enact the status. To hear that in the event that no candidates stepped forward or no vote occurred, then the plebiscite results become nullified. I am not belittling that

default setting, but I just wanted it clearly understood by the community.

Now, I imagine the department communicates this information to all the communities about the different systems, the plebiscite that allows for the status, and I would think that this information is provided. As an example, in Igloolik they must not have had much information and, if that is the case there, other communities may be in that situation too. As the minister stated, one community status changed to a different system.

Does the department keep the communities informed about the possible consequences under this legislation, especially since we amended the legislation, and how the alcohol education committee or other bodies that have representatives voted in may be impacted? The communities need to know all the details if they are going to adhere to the new legislation. We try to keep constituents informed, but do the actual program managers provide this information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickes.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there was correspondence with all the mayors and hamlets across the territory with a description of the implications as well. We wanted to make sure that people were aware of the consequences of not having enough members to their alcohol education committee.

Like I said earlier, some communities were grandfathered and some are since the legislation in '88, but one thing that we are doing is we are doing a review of

our *Liquor Act* next year. This will be a discussion topic as well too to help standardize this process so that there is more equity, I guess, across all the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 694 – 5(2): Food Security Coalition**

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the residents of my constituency community of Pond Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Acting [Minister of] Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, during members' statements, Acting Minister for Family Services talked about food security in Nunavut. He went on to say that the coalition is co-chaired by the Department of Family Services and NTI. For the fiscal year 2019-2020, the coalition is supporting 10 community-based food security projects for a total of \$200,000.

My first question will be: how many members are involved in this coalition as the coalition looks at how policies and programs can make it more accessible and affordable for food security? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) For the Food Security Coalition in terms of the partnerships, I don't have the actual figure in terms of how many they are, but I do know that this is a coalition that goes and meets on an annual basis and brings together the governments, Inuit organizations, businesses, community organizations, including hunters and trappers organizations, food banks, grocery retailers, and airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the communities the minister identified are Taloyoak, Rankin Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Clyde River, and Iqaluit. I would like to ask again: can he tell us what the other five communities are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For 2019-2020, the communities are Taloyoak, Clyde River, (interpretation ends) Coral Harbour, Iqaluit, Gjoa Haven, (interpretation) Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, (interpretation ends) beautiful Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, (interpretation) and Iqaluit again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for answering my question. The final question I have is: will what the

minister mentioned continue or will this program end after the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akeegok.

**Hon. David Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many representatives in the coalition and the \$200,000 is only coming from the Nunavut government. These other organizations give out funding too and they do their own programming in all the communities. The \$200,000 was only for contribution programs. They review the proposals and grant them money. Because of its success and with so many groups involved in it, it's obviously going to continue and as the Nunavut government we try to support things like that and we will continue to support them. You will see it again in the plans for the 2020-21 estimates. Thank you for asking that question, my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 695 – 5(2): Housing Shortage**

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and are regarding our housing shortage.

Mr. Speaker, the effects of Nunavut's housing crisis are felt in every community across the territory. It also has threatened every aspect of our social issues, not just homelessness and overcrowding but also food insecurity, mould and respiratory illness, mental health, domestic violence, and child



sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, current methods of constructing public housing units are costly and time-consuming and are reducing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's ability to address our much-needed demand. On numerous occasions the Nunavut Housing Corporation has stated that it's unable to build enough units, and I believe it's time to consider alternative methods to build as many units as possible in the quickest and most economical fashion.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has adopted a hybrid modular construction approach to build the new hotel in Iqaluit. In the letter that I tabled yesterday, the president of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has mentioned that it has done so with a reasonable rate of return and with achieving exceptionally high rates of Inuit participation.

Mr. Speaker, in the letter the president states that "We believe in innovative approaches to mitigate high costs of doing business in Nunavut should be continuously explored." The president also states that he would be pleased to have his staff meet with our government representatives to overview their experience with the modular approach if this would be of benefit to the territory.

Mr. Speaker, my first question would be to the Minister of Housing if the minister would accept this invitation and benefit from the lessons learned from this innovative construction approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's concern. I think we all do. We have a serious housing crisis and we need to look at alternative ways of providing housing. The NHC is committed to providing cost-effective and proven northern-appropriate housing to Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's commitment, but I don't believe I heard an answer to my question.

Mr. Speaker, in a response to my questions earlier in the fall sitting, I appreciate the minister's willingness to table the 2017 study which determined that conventional stick-built construction methods are the most cost effective, of which I really hoped that we will be seeing before the end of the fall sitting. However, over the last few years there have been a number of alternative construction methods in Nunavut as well as across the Arctic, including prefab, modular and passive housing construction methods.

I would like to ask if the minister will commit to conducting a new feasibility study, including all options to construct more public housing units in a more cost-effective and timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. It's going to take all of us to address the severe housing crisis that we have and I'm certainly open to ideas on how we can improve housing throughout Nunavut.

Having said that, the Nunavut Housing Corporation continuously reviews current best practices in building science, construction, and maintenance to determine Nunavut's appropriate evidence-based improvements to future builds, retrofits, and remediation.

I would like to also take this a bit further. We have this Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated which belongs to the beneficiaries. Our people are in severe need, the beneficiaries, of whom we are responsible for. I would like to call out to NTI: help us. We need your help. You have a healthy...

>> *Applause*

...a healthy surplus, which you indicated recently. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud the minister for calling out to NTI to seek assistance in this matter, as I do believe that is an appropriate manner of addressing the housing shortage in the territory.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, returning to my topic of alternative constructive methods, as a member representing Iqaluit, I would like to invite the minister to conduct a pilot project here in Iqaluit to test out alternative construction methods if that means that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to save funds to then construct additional public housing units in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, I am open to ideas from the other side of the House and certainly I would look at other options in addressing our severe housing crisis. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 696 – 5(2): Local Employment for Housing Projects**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. My colleague and I didn't speak together beforehand.

What I want to ask about is the lack of employment opportunities in my constituency of Arviat and Whale Cove, which is something that is felt deeply. When people have no employment prospects, the day becomes long and you see people just walking around the community, trying to look for employment.

The housing corporation constructs housing units in the communities when units are allocated to the community, whether it is (interpretation ends) public housing (interpretation) or Government of Nunavut staff housing units. What I have noted over these years in looking at projects, and here I mean possibly over a decade, is that the number of Inuit workers is diminishing.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the long-term trend in Inuit and local employment in housing appears to be going down. My first question for the minister: in terms of that long-term trend, what factors have contributed to the drop in local and Inuit employment for housing projects? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As to the actual reasons for the seemingly decreasing numbers of local hires in housing projects, I think we have a pretty good idea now. It is obvious that not enough local people are hired and in the past when the housing corporation had a construction project in a community, it would involve a (interpretation ends) two-phased construction, one for the material and the other phase was for labour only. Ever since that has been dropped, I think the numbers of our people being employed has been certainly low. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Yes, this is very disconcerting. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, advocating for higher Inuit and local employment isn't just good politics for people like me; I believe it also makes good economic sense in terms of what is called "reducing leakage" from the economy.

Just to clarify, in economic terms, "leakage" is the money that the government puts into programs and services which doesn't end up coming back into the economy. That's what we see when there's a higher rate of transient workers. They take their paycheques and we get a little cut of it on the payroll tax, but most of it goes outside of the community. Most of the time they're housed in bunkhouses and they don't pay for their groceries at the local store, so there's leakage.

My second question for the minister: will the minister commit to having his staff conduct an economic analysis of the different levels of local and Inuit employment with a holistic view to reducing economic leakage from our communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker**: Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When I was over at the witness table deliberating our budget, the member from Tasiujarjuaq alluded to that about the wishes of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to do tender-only and labour-only construction. I had committed to looking at that to

communities that can handle it and it would certainly keep the economy strongly in those communities that can handle that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is encouraging that this has been coming up in the House and during budget deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, just to clarify what I'm asking, I'm asking the housing corporation to go and to crunch the numbers and to look at the wage component, the labour component, the materials component, and look at ways to reduce the leakage and maximize the benefits for our communities. Mr. Speaker, I will add this includes Inuit-owned local contractors.

Again I'll ask the minister: will the minister commit to conducting an analysis of the different local and Inuit labour content levels, perhaps in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, to reduce the leakage and maximize benefits from housing construction in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clearly evident when the local economy or the local people who are hired by the construction companies that come into our communities when they are building houses or arenas, it's a real cost benefit without a doubt when

our local people are hired. Under the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, our mandate says to train up our local workforce so we are less dependent on imported labour. Mr. Speaker, that is what we are aiming to do. As for the member's request, we can certainly look into that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

>> *Laughter*

### **Question 697 – 5(2): Office of Patient Relations**

**Ms. Angnakak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I even put away all my stuff, thinking I wasn't going to be able to ask a question. (interpretation) I thank Minister Netser (interpretation ends) for that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health since I never ask him many questions.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, when a constituent raises a concern or a complaint with the health care that they or a family member has received, they are encouraged to contact the Office of Patient Relations. The office has been in existence for a number of years now. The most recent report on the office's activities appeared in the Department of Health's annual report for 2016-17 which was tabled in September 2017.

Can the minister clarify when he will be tabling an update on the activities of the Office of Patient Relations which will provide further information on the

numbers and types of complaints that the office deals with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. We are continuously looking into expanding the data recovery for tracking the volume, the source, and the leading types of issues that are brought forward. I would have to check with my staff on where that report is at right now. It's not something that I have asked them in the last couple of weeks. I'll have to check with my officials to see where we are with that report. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to seeing that report.

Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me whether the Office of Patient Relations addresses concerns relating to situations where there is an unexpected death while a patient is receiving treatment or undergoing a procedure. Can the minister clarify whether the Office of Patient Relations addresses complaints or concerns regarding the medical services that were being provided to an individual who died suddenly or unexpectedly and, if it is not the office who handles these types of complaints or concerns, can he explain how these types of complaints or concerns are dealt with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unless a member of the public or a member of the family raised a concern with the Office of Patient Relations, they would not normally be a part of that process. Mr. Speaker, anytime there is an unexpected outcome with health care delivery or an unexpected death, as the member states, there are avenues that the coroner's office is automatically notified and have the ability to request reviews. The regulatory bodies of the health care here in Nunavut also would be notified and would also have the ability to do a full review of the circumstances around that and those are automatic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many jurisdictions have established independent bodies like health ombudsmen or patient ombudsmen to handle complaints and concerns about medical services and health care that cannot be resolved from within the health system's patient relations office.

Can the minister clarify whether any consideration has been given to establishing an independent health ombudsman to help resolve complaints and concerns that the Office of Patient Relations is unable to address? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Hickey.

**Hon. George Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The topic has come up. I know, in some discussions with some of my officials in the past, we have broached the topic. That being said, the work that the Office of Patient Relations has been doing has been very successful. I'm not aware of any direct complaints that were made that the issue was not... Well, they always resolve the issue. It's not always to the patient's satisfaction, acknowledging sometimes escorts and such are still not approved after an appeal.

That being said, I'm not aware of any major issues that have come out of the Office of Patient Relations not being able to deal with an issue. It's something that we're going to continue to analyze as the information comes forward from the types of complaints and the level of results of those complaints. We will continue to monitor. It is a topic that has been raised in the past and it's something that we will keep on the radar. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members will note that the time for question period has expired. Continuing on. Written Questions. Continuing on. Returns to Written Questions. Continuing on.

(interpretation ends) Order. I can hear people talking when we're going through the agenda.

(interpretation) Continuing on.  
(interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14.

Notices of Motions. (interpretation)  
Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove,  
Member Main.

#### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

##### **Motion 055 – 5(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 4, 2019, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Member for Quttiktuq, that pursuant to Rule 3, that when the House concludes its present sitting, it shall be adjourned until February 18, 2020.

Also, Mr. Speaker, our colleague for Quttiktuq will be celebrating his birthday on February 18.

>>*Laughter*

That will be his birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Continuing on. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Continuing on. Motions. Continuing on. 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. Bills 8, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 10:38 and  
Committee resumed at 10:58

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Akoak): Welcome back. 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, 26, 29, 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, commencing with the Department of Culture and Heritage, followed by the Department of Family Services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Main. Being Friday, I would like to say, you know what I mean? Thank you. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 30?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 30 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,  
2020-2021 – Culture and Heritage  
– Consideration in Committee**

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, yes.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials go to the witness table?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Joanasié, please introduce your officials. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my Deputy Minister, Teresa Hughes, and to my right is Wendy Bens, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Please proceed with your opening comments. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): I am pleased to take this opportunity to present the Department of Culture and Heritage's 2020-21 capital estimates.

The department works toward ensuring that the Government of Nunavut preserves, develops, and enhances Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the capital estimates for the Department of Culture and Heritage for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$800,000.

The department is requesting \$300,000 of the capital estimates to replace the carpeting of the Igloolik office. It is important for the department to replace the aged carpet in the Igloolik office. The Igloolik office includes 21 positions from the Official Languages, Heritage

and Elders and Youth branches. The department has been working closely with the Department of Community and Government Services.

The department is also working hard to address the need to display and preserve our heritage within the territory. Through the collaboration with other partners, the department displays parts of our Heritage Collection in the territory. The department is committed to addressing Nunavut's long-term vision for the storage of heritage collections and to support economic development initiatives that build on and add value to heritage, arts and tourism sectors within Nunavut. Therefore the department is requesting \$500,000 of the capital estimates be used for current and future heritage infrastructure across Nunavut under our heritage facilities contribution funding. We provide this funding to non-profit, community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development and/or renovation of heritage facilities or relevant associated structures and objects.

Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have.  
(interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik, koana, ma'na.*

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanase. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Ms. Nakashuk.

**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 concerning its review of the 2020-21

Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed capital budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$800,000, a small increase from the amount requested for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Members note that the department's proposed 2020-21 capital estimates again include \$500,000 for its capital contribution program to renovate heritage facilities across Nunavut. The department's budget also includes \$300,000 for a small capital project.

Mr. Chairman, the department's capital contribution program is allocated to non-profit community-based organizations and municipal corporations for the development or renovation of heritage facilities. The standing committee looks forward to receiving an updated breakdown of which community entities received funding through these agreements, which communities applied for contributions, and a listing of what specific work has been done on heritage facilities with the funding provided through this program since the 2018-19 fiscal year.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to discuss his department's draft 2020-21 capital estimates, members were given to understand that the funding requested under the department's small capital budget would be used to replace the carpeting in the Igloolik building where culture and heritage offices are located as well as offices for the departments of Family Services, Nunavut Arctic College, and Community and Government Services. While the



standing committee recognizes the need to ensure that departmental office space is safe, healthy, and comfortable for all staff to work in, it is unclear why the small capital budget for the Department of Culture and Heritage is being allocated to cover the entire cost of the carpet replacement in this building without contributions from the capital budgets of the other departments which share the space.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2020-21 Capital Estimates of the Department of Culture and Heritage. I am confident my colleagues will have comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Any general comments? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. I hope you guys are enjoying your Friday so far.

I just want to begin by congratulating Ms. Hughes on her recent appointment. It's great to see you with a seat at the Deputy Ministers' Committee. It's also great to see the number of females that are now in the majority in that committee. I feel that having that gender parity at that senior level is definitely important to the territory and will lead to a more progressive government. Congratulations, Ms. Hughes.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to congratulate Ms. Bens on joining the senior management team. We have worked together before and I look forward to seeing you progress further in your role there.

Congratulations to you both and that will be all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Towtongie (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Department of Culture and Heritage. The Kivalliq Inuit Association was given assistance and today in Chesterfield Inlet there will be a heritage and youth and elders office. That's progressing well. Not too many big offices are built in Chesterfield Inlet. I appreciate the Department of Culture and Heritage and I expect that they will work closer together with the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Quassa (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please feel welcome, minister and your officials.

Now, when discussing the initiatives we wish to create here in Nunavut, such as Qaggiavuut, if you recall, and when dealing with heritage-related issues such as archaeological artefacts, Nunavummiut want to see a physical (interpretation ends) heritage centre, (interpretation) as an example. Now, in just reading through the document that he read from, to date \$500,000 has been identified under the capital budget for heritage funding to be used for all of Nunavut. It seems obvious that this amount is insufficient in my view because an actual centre would cost millions of dollars to construct.

I am encouraging the officials and the Minister of Culture and Heritage to look

for ways to increase the support towards Nunavummiut, as many people have expectations of cultural centres, especially since most of our artefacts are housed outside of Nunavut and should be returned. I really urge the department to deal with those issues and to deliberate on a future plan and to provide concrete assistance to make the department more visible. I would prefer that they work harder towards that goal of making a heritage centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Quassa. Seeing no more names under general comments, we're on Culture and Heritage. Directorate. Any questions? Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

We are quite glad to see your plans as the descendants of the real Inuit, at least for us older generations, as we enjoy dealing with old artefacts and they should be available for viewing. What I want to ask about is related to culture, as we have our own distinctive culture and some generations of Inuit still don't know how certain aspects of our culture came to be.

The reason for asking the question is related to past initiatives that just seemed to end. Past proposals have been brought up from time to time, but it seems they just keep getting turned down. There are discussions on it almost every year. I wonder if this was included in the deliberations for the future.

I want to ask about the funding and if they can apply for funding, as it will be

useful. In looking at this amount, \$800,000 seems a bit small from my perspective. That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. The funding is requested annually and it hasn't changed a lot over the years, but my officials and I want to convey the information that proposals can be submitted to the Department of Culture and Heritage. We want that understood by Nunavummiut. It has been announced in the communities. When we don't get many submissions, we try to approach the communities to inform them about the funding.

We want it understood that this funding is available, but there is a limit. Well, we want to request that the funding is increased, but we have other priorities and sometimes we have to go outside the Department of Culture and Heritage for funding. To date that is how it's set up, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to move to a different topic related to heritage. Today the government announced the creation of a new territorial park in our community, which also contains many significant cultural sites. I wonder if the community can work towards developing tourism in that park. Can they apply to this fund? I would think it is possible, obviously because

archaeological sites are under heritage. I want to ask if any plans for tourism have been considered. That is my question as I would like to know, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the understanding I have, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation set aside funds specifically for economic development purposes. This includes sites under culture and heritage. It would have to go through ED&T since the purpose would be economic development or even if exploring the tourism potential. However, we fund mostly not-for-profit organizations or hamlets. To use this example, the Kivalliq Inuit Association submitted an application for funding, which was approved. Generally the fund only applies to not-for-profit bodies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qirngnuq.

**Mr. Qirngnuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even with that being the case, there should be dialogue between Culture and Heritage and Family Services to try to have a singular perspective, at least in my opinion. We have to know what the other departments are funding if we want to manage things properly. Mr. Chairman, I want to remind them of that, although I am sure that they are already aware of it. I just want to encourage further dialogue so it can move forward. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's just a

comment. Next name on my list, Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today being Friday, in reading the English version, it reads (interpretation ends) "aged carpet," (interpretation) and perhaps because the Inuit of Igloolik make (interpretation ends) aged walrus, (interpretation) I wasn't aware we also had (interpretation ends) "aged carpet" (interpretation) in town.

>> *Laughter*

I really wanted to say that little tidbit since Iglulingmiut are known as expert walrus fermenters, who make excellent aged walrus.

I have a short question as I just want it clarified, as I know Igloolik intimately. This is referring to the carpet, which I hope is the right term here. That research centre is (interpretation ends) mushroom (interpretation) shaped. I would like to ask if that is specific to the research centre, that oddly-shaped building. Is the carpet identified for that building? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it's for the blue building which houses the government offices. I believe the building that he is talking about is the Department of Environment's office. What we are seeking is for the blue building, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was mistaken. I apologize.

With what are called carpets that have been talked about in the House, I don't know the term in Inuktitut. What is it called? There are people within our communities who are allergic to carpets. Has it been considered with the carpets? The whole floor is a public place and has offices. Yes, I'm happy to see that it is going to be a new one, but has allergies in our community been considered? That's my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are trying to get a new carpet because the carpet is getting too old. Offices anywhere, even here in the Assembly building we have carpets for the floors, but we want to put new carpet in the Igloolik office for that reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Quassa.

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I will expect to see that new carpet. I think the old carpet is like aged walrus.

Let me move on to a different topic. With regard to the \$500,000 to be used for old heritage buildings, it states that it is for infrastructure, which usually means buildings. I don't know if that \$500,000 will be enough for working on infrastructure. Apparently it's for the future to deal with aged infrastructure. I don't really understand that. What does it mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now some communities have culture and heritage buildings, usually through the hamlet. For example, it can be for renovations to the francophone building in Iqaluit. Alternatively, we have given funding to the Netsilik Heritage Society in Gjoa Haven, the Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay, and the Qaggiavuut Society, (interpretation ends) final renovation of Qaggiavuut studio. (interpretation) Those are some of the examples that I can use, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is probably my last question. In Igloolik there is an old Hudson's Bay building that the hamlet took over a number of years ago and it has never been changed. Maybe the hamlet didn't ask for funding up to now for the old Hudson's Bay building. I'm sure we can imagine the red roofs of the Hudson's Bay Company buildings.

Within that \$500,000, these hamlets in the communities can request for funding from that program. This money is for working on, renovating, or upgrading these very old buildings. Would the funding come through this program if they're able to request for it, for example, if the community of Igloolik wanted to work on that building? That is my question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlet can check with the Department of Culture and Heritage to see if they're eligible to apply for funding from that program. However, I would like everybody to be aware too that some of these programs are under the responsibility of the federal government. For example, if heritage buildings are within the community, they would have to be looked at further, but if the community considers them important, we can look into the matter to see if we can provide funding for the hamlet if they ask for money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Next name on my list, Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Supporting documents provided with the draft capital estimates indicate that the department anticipates requesting less funding for small capital funding in future fiscal years. Why does the department not anticipate any future small capital projects in its facilities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. It's based on our needs right now. This is what we need for this coming fiscal year and given our office spaces that are under Culture and Heritage, we figure that we won't need any funds in that, but we will have to look at our facilities. We would like to monitor what the needs are of our offices

and make requests based on the needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Towtongie.

**Ms. Towtongie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question, during the Committee of the Whole review of the department's 2019-2020 proposed capital estimates, department officials indicated that the department was looking into enhancing the use of computers and providing greater access to electronic and digital books in Nunavut's libraries. What is the current status of that initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to get back to the member on some details around that. It's not in our capital budget or proposed budget right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Next name on my list, Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Chamber.

We are dealing with the proposed capital estimates for 2020-21. I would like to ask if the Department of Culture and Heritage has a vehicle fleet and, if so, do they have a vehicle replacement plan as the vehicles age? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We only have one vehicle in Iqaluit and it is a new vehicle, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Qamaniq.

**Mr. Qamaniq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, how many proposals have been received by the Department of Culture and Heritage? I would like to hear that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2019-2020 there were eight proposals for funding, but one proposal was withdrawn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Next name on my list, Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

I just have one quick question. What is the update of the aged carpet of the Kugluktuk Translation Bureau office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We have put in a request to Community and Government Services to start the process of replacing the carpet in the Kugluktuk office. Just to note, again, we have Baker Lake, Igloolik, Iqaluit and Kugluktuk offices and right now we are putting forward a request to

do a replacement of carpeting in Igloolik and we're trying to make plans for Kugluktuk in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Kamingoak, are you done? Ms. Kamingoak.

**Ms. Kamingoak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When do you anticipate the Kugluktuk office to be in the books? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): I apologize. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I correct myself. We have already approved funds for Kugluktuk's office and we are working with CGS to try to get that project addressed within this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. The last name on my list, (interpretation) if you can keep your question brief, Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have two comments to make. (interpretation ends) My first question or item is about what is called the Margaret Aniksak Visitor Centre. It's in Arviat and currently it's controlled or held by the Hamlet of Arviat. I believe they get some support for that facility through ED&T, Economic Development.

Looking at that facility and what it's actually being used for, I think it's a lot more similar to a heritage facility. We don't get a lot of tourists into Arviat currently, but it's getting used by the

community for things like sewing, throat singing workshops, and there have been language workshops and whatnot. It is basically a heritage facility.

(interpretation) My first question to the minister is if he would be able to discuss this with the Department of Economic Development about the (interpretation ends) Margaret Aniksak Visitor Centre (interpretation) and come up with alternatives. Perhaps they can find a different funding avenue for capital items and furniture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank you for the question. Yes, I can communicate with my ministerial colleague about this issue. However, if the building is owned by the hamlet, perhaps the hamlet can submit a proposal towards that to our department. It would then be reviewed and discussions on how to resolve the issues would then commence, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Main.

**Mr. Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. My last question is regarding new airport terminal buildings. The Department of Economic Development is looking to construct a new airport terminal building in Whale Cove and in other communities, but when I look at culture or languages, the regional offices seem to be more informed.

My last question is: is the department considering involvement in the design or

if they have contemplated participating in the designing of the airport terminal buildings, whether a small section with artefacts or tourism attractions could be incorporated right from the beginning stages? I would really like the Department of Culture and Heritage to be involved when new airport terminal buildings are being built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand it currently, we aren't involved with the airport terminal building projects, but we will keep an eye out on how we can collaborate. For example, here in Iqaluit, even though it's an airport, it was only after the Department of Transportation submitted their project for approval that it included the arts section. It was because of the public purposes that a Nunavut-wide grouping of sculpture and art pieces was then included, so they are visible at the airport. We are looking into that sort of arrangement, perhaps when we look at future projects, so that is a good concept, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. The final name on my list, Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome and welcome, Teresa.

I have just really one question and it's to do with Qaggiavuut. They received \$500,000 from the federal government for their proposal. I'm wondering: what is the GN position on whether or not it will provide support or become a partner

on this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for her question. We have provided some funds through our grants and contributions to Qaggiavuut. As it relates to their big proposal to build performing arts facility, right now our budget doesn't allow for such a grand, big budget request from Nunavummiut. We have met a few times with Qaggiavuut and are talking about different ways we can provide support to them.

The members of the public know there was a concept study that was done on a cultural centre type of building to be done in the territory and we had a steering committee we wanted to put forward. However, we haven't come to an agreement with the different parties to move forward on that steering committee. That's where we are at now.

There are different parties that want to do different projects, like the Inuit organizations wanted to move forward with the culture and heritage centre and then Qaggiavuut wanted to do something totally separate; Inuit Heritage Trust. There are different players wanting to do different things, so I don't think there is an agreement on how to proceed as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Angnakak.

**Ms. Angnakak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I guess my final question is I would like to know: what financially was the request from Qaggiavuut?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't received a formal proposal document asking for an X amount of dollars. However, I understand there have been some members that have provided a letter of support. I think at this point that might be the only thing we can do right now, given our limited budget, is providing a letter of support on their initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié. We are on page F-3. Culture and Heritage Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$800,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to page F-2. Culture and Heritage. Total Capital Expenditures. \$800,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Culture and Heritage?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members for their questions. I would like to specifically thank the deputy minister for culture and heritage, as well as the director. This is her first appearance, namely, Ms. Hughes.



I believe we have lunch waiting for us, so I will end it on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Rumbolt.

**Mr. Rumbolt:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member Akoak.

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

**Mr. Akoak:** 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 Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Member Lightstone. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. 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 there's a meeting of the rules standing committee at half past one in the Tuktu Boardroom and that there's also a meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation at three o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for November 4:

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
  - Motion 56 – 5(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of

the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters

- Bill 8
- Bill 26
- 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, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 50 – 5(2), this House stands adjourned until Monday, November 4, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:47*

