

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

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

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)
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
Committee of the Whole*

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

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 Indigenous
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

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

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
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Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

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Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Calvin Pedersen
(Kugluktuk)

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
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickey, Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good day. Before we begin, can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Qirngnuq.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): I am thankful that we are able to be in the House. Welcome to Nunavummiut who are following the proceedings as we begin our work today.

First of all, Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 490 – 5(2): Department of Environment COVID-19 Response

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the dedication of the staff of the Department of Environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their commitment ensured essential services to the public continued in these unprecedented times.

Mr. Speaker, our conservation officers interact with harvesters in all communities, and were able to anticipate how the pandemic restrictions would impact them. In response, a social distance procedure was created for our wildlife offices, allowing harvesters to sell their pelts by appointment.

COVID-19 changed the way many Nunavummiut spent their summer. All of our territorial parks were extremely popular this year, as many people spent more time outdoors. At Sylvia Grinnell Park here in Iqaluit, nearly 100 tents were set up and more than 15,000 vehicles entered the park. Mr. Speaker, the Territorial Parks and Special Places Division met the increased demand and provided services to more visitors than they had ever seen before.

Lastly, the “Learn To...” territorial park programs were led with strong social distancing protocols and were well attended by community members of all ages. These programs foster community spirit and teach traditional knowledge and skills, such as plant identification, throat singing, and soapstone carving. I am very happy we were able to continue these programs during the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all staff at the department for their creativity, hard work, and dedication in the spirit of *Qanuqtuurniq* during the pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Joanasie.

Minister’s Statement 491 – 5(2): Welcoming Rebecca Hainnu, Associate Deputy Minister

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to all Nunavummiut, from the youngest to the oldest, as well as good day, members.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great joy to inform the Members of the Assembly of the most recent hire to the Department of Education. I would like to welcome Rebecca Hainnu into her new role as Associate Deputy Minister.

For most of her life, Ms. Rebecca Hainnu has been involved in Nunavut’s education system in many different capacities, starting as a student, then as a parent, and as a district education authority member. She returned to school, this time graduating from Nunavut Arctic College’s Nunavut Teacher Education Program. She was then hired by the Department of Education first as a teacher, then an Inuktitut program support teacher, and finally in her previous role as principal of Clyde River’s Quluaq School.

Mr. Speaker, during her time working at Quluaq School, Rebecca has been the recipient of several education awards. In 2016 she received the Nunavut Teachers Association’s Teaching Excellence Award. In 2018 she was the recipient of the Indspire Leadership Award, and was named one of Canada’s Outstanding Principals.

Mr. Speaker, my department’s new associate deputy minister truly believes in the value of children in Inuit Nunangat being bilingual and bicultural. She is the author of several children’s books and has co-authored other books published in Inuktitut and English.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have Rebecca Hainnu join our team, and look forward to working alongside her to ensure Nunavummiut received the best education possible. Please welcome her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 492 – 5(2): Federal Fish Harvesters Benefit and Grant Program

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce today that we have partnered with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to promote the federal fish harvesters benefit and grant programs, which provided support for commercial fish harvesters who were affected by the pandemic.

The first program, the Fish Harvester Benefit, offered financial support to self-employed harvesters who fish commercially and claimed their fishing income annually with the Canada Revenue Agency. This benefit compensated fishers up to 75 percent, or a total of \$10,164 per applicant.

The second program, the Fish Harvester Grant, was a non-repayable grant for local hunters and trappers organizations up to a value of \$10,000 to compensate for lost revenue.

These programs opened on August 24, 2020 and ended on October 19, 2020. To date 12 Nunavummiut received support totalling \$37,000 in funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasié.

Minister's Statement 493 – 5(2): Minimizing COVID-19's Impact on Fourth Year NTEP Students

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recruiting graduates from Nunavut Arctic College's Nunavut Teacher Education Program is key to supporting the delivery of bilingual education in Nunavut schools.

The Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College worked together to support last year's fourth year Nunavut Teacher Education Program students who were unable to complete the final year of their program due to COVID-19.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the college and the Department of Education developed procedures so that these students could compete for teaching positions and, if successful in the interview process, could be employed by the Department of Education on a one-year term while they finish their Bachelor of Education program with the college.

Mr. Speaker, these students will continue to complete their coursework this academic year. For students who complete their Bachelor of Education program by the end of the winter 2021 term, approval will be sought to change their term teaching position to an indeterminate one.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this collaboration between the college and my department, eight fourth year Nunavut Teacher Education Program students have been hired and are currently working in Nunavut schools.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in these unprecedented times the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College will continue to collaborate to support these students as they complete their final courses and begin their careers as teachers. (interpretation ends) *Qujannamiik, ma'na, koana, Uqaqtii.*

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Member Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 732 – 5(2): Addressing Tuberculosis in Nunavut

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues, as well as the people of Whale Cove and Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, all members are aware within this House, the COVID-19 pandemic has garnered a lot of discussion both in this avenue as well as health practices in general. At this time it is most concerning to face this pandemic as we need to prepare within Nunavut for its arrival.

Nonetheless, we must not forget existing health concerns that we face already, and this is what I want to speak to today, specifically tuberculosis. Both communities within my constituency, Whale Cove and Arviat, have people who have tuberculosis and this sickness, in my opinion, has stuck around for too many years here in Nunavut. I urge our health officials to prioritize TB and to not forget it in face of this pandemic, which is why I am bringing it up now.

The people of Whale Cove received some assistance earlier on October 2018 as TB screening tests were undertaken by the Department of Health at a (interpretation ends) screening clinic, (interpretation) in English, in the community. I am quite appreciative of their assistance to my constituency community of Whale Cove, even to this date, as this really provided clarity to the residents of Whale Cove by alleviating their health fears. I was anticipating this screening clinic arriving into Arviat as it would also provide much

clearing up of health concerns, and I have queried the minister on this matter in past years.

Mr. Speaker, this July over this summer, we heard a story on the news where it spoke about this issue in English entitled (interpretation ends) “Potential tuberculosis exposure at Arviat daycare.” (interpretation) This apparently exposed TB to some clients at the daycare, as this news was announced by the Department of Health.

After this episode, several parents and care workers at the daycare submitted their concerns to me directly as they were concerned they may have been exposed, and it reminded me about other respiratory diseases and that we shouldn’t solely focus on COVID-19 as other respiratory diseases require a more focused approach, including TB. We need to resolve this health challenge as Nunavummiut.

Later at an appropriate time I will be querying the Minister of Health questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Nakashuk.

Member’s Statement 733 – 5(2): Seamstress Program in Pangnirtung

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and the residents of Pangnirtung.

I wish to convey acknowledgement today of Nunavut’s smaller communities. In these smaller communities they offer courses on Inuit cultural skills, such as sewing sealskins or something like that, and they require more acknowledgements of these special skills.

In Pangnirtung we are also offering this type of cultural course, recognizing the specialized skills Inuit held, with a coordinator within Pangnirtung, and the class has nine women who are learning to sew winter hunting clothing, amautiks, parkas, wind pants, mittens, and the usual gear you use when hunting in the extreme cold.

I wanted to recognize the three elders who are leading this initiative as they are all from Pangnirtung, and the classes started in October and are scheduled to be completed in November. Where cultural classes are offered in our local communities, we must voice our appreciation, as many younger people want to learn these skills. I wanted to highlight these three elders who have taken on this challenge today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Amittuq. Member Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 734 – 5(2): Government Contracting

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the issue of joblessness, as many residents in our communities have no employment prospects or opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, whenever a job opportunity opens up, if it stems from our government, to use this example, positions are usually in these facilities, such as in our schools, arenas, health centres, or perhaps to the local aerodrome facilities.

Mr. Speaker, when a position in these fields opens up, many residents put their names forward as they use a competitive process to make their choices.

Mr. Speaker, not all local applicants are able to win these competitions, and many local applicants don't have the prerequisite skills to win, and many people lose out in the competitions for local workers.

Mr. Speaker, communities have very limited employment opportunities and with the high employment rates, we must start searching for ways as a government to provide more employment opportunities in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the responsible minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Arviat South. Member Kaerner.

Member's Statement 735 – 5(2): Services for People with Disabilities

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my fellow residents of Amittuq, as well as Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate on behalf of people with physical disabilities, people with prosthetic arms and legs, patients in wheelchairs since they can't walk independently, or those who require electric scooters or walkers. It seems that we are forgetting about our constituents who face these challenges, as we are largely silent in this House. In my opinion, they too need to be represented, as they form part of our constituency as they are also part of the voting public, and perhaps a few voted in the belief that they would receive proper representation. This is what I want to speak to today, Mr. Speaker.

Many members here have constituents in their communities who have these challenges, and in my constituency of Amittuq, there are several residents with disabilities. When they wish to go places, such as the health centre, they usually don't have access to a

vehicle, and in looking at capital projects in the communities set for Nunavut, we must also take into consideration the people with special needs. I therefore stand on their behalf today, to speak for people with disabilities, Mr. Speaker.

Now, in saying that, people with disabilities don't just live in Nunavut, as many Inuit now live in Ottawa and in the elders' care facility where several people reside. Now, when patients in those circumstances can finally go home, after spending time in the south, where the roads and sidewalks are made of concrete, they end up home where only gravel roads exist and they have difficulties in trying to go places with their wheelchairs or walkers. They end up having a hard time, and not just physical obstacles. They also find it financially difficult to purchase a vehicle, which I used as an example. If they were to try to purchase a vehicle, it can also really impact the disabled person's life. It also impacts their relatives, their older siblings, their parents, if alive, as their needs impact the whole family.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Health. Nevertheless, I'm assuming that the Acting Minister of Family Services provides the funds, so I will direct my question to that ministry later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 736 – 5(2): Tribute to David Aglukark, Sr.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to send my condolences to the relatives in Arviat who just lost a family member, and I too empathize deeply.

Further, we recently had a funeral procession for David Aglukark Sr., and most people just knew him as David Aglukark and most Inuit didn't use the "senior" nomenclature. The community just completed the funeral procession for him and I deeply regret the fact I was unable to attend the funeral as we are sitting in session.

This man led a very good life, and he was heavily invested in the community as David Aglukark and his wife made many contributions to Arviat. When he retired, he was able to catch up on his rest, and he went hunting a lot to assist others.

I wish to recall two episodes that explain more about David Aglukark and his wife, Dorothy, and how they assisted me. When I was becoming a young boy, perhaps around ten years old, our family left for Whale Cove in the fall via snowmobile. It was extremely cold travelling on the sled, and I was getting really cold when we finally arrived in Whale Cove.

We approached a set of cabins, and entered their cabin which was nice and warm, with hot tea ready, and country food ready for consuming and even though I was a young boy

at that time, my feelings of gratefulness return every time I enter a nice warm cabin, as it was memorable and I still feel thankful today.

The other story also includes another warming episode; actually that is the main thread. I was flying into Arviat via private plane, but upon approach, the weather went down and I was unable to land in Arviat, so I flew to Tingmiaqtaalik just as darkness was approaching where I landed and spent the night at an unheated cabin.

In the morning, I woke up just as dawn started to arrive and I noted that Aglukark's cabin was lit, so I walked down to their cabin where Mr. Aglukark and his wife were staying, and again it was a nice, warm cabin and they had just brewed some coffee which was delicious and his wife also made an egg omelette, so again I was especially grateful to them.

Now that Mr. Aglukark has been laid to rest, he can rest in peace and I send my condolences to each and every one of his family. I am deeply thankful to your family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We remember him very well. Members' Statements. I have no other names on my list, so we will continue. No. 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) No. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, which is not possible at this time as we are not open to the public, but we are looking forward to having some visitors sometime soon, although our members are sitting in this Chamber.

Continuing on. No. 6. Oral Questions. Before we begin, I wish to inform you that Member Qamaniq will be absent from the House today due to a family matter.

Oral Questions. First will be the Member for Netsilik, followed by the Member for Pangnirtung. Member Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1028 – 5(2): Government Contracting

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, residents of our smaller communities are in desperate need of employment opportunities. Just last week the government issued a request for tenders to undertake a major lifecycle upgrade to the Kugaaruk Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the government's tender documents indicate that the Inuit labour requirement for this project is at 30 percent. Can the minister clarify how the Department

of Community and Government Services works with client departments to determine what is an achievable and realistic level of Inuit employment on major construction projects, and can he clarify how his department monitors compliance with the requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I didn't do that on purpose, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. Mr. Speaker, I will start again. In regard to the projects and the tender documents that the member is referring to, if it's the Department of Health or if it's the Department of Education buildings, schools, or departments working on major projects, usually we work together to look at what major projects are going to be going up and what the contents are going to be.

Once the tender documents are out, we identify in the beginning the lowest Inuit labour requirement. It could be 10 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent, or 50 percent and sometimes it's usually higher at the beginning of the project and usually there is less at the end of the project, where there are electrical requirements and Red Seal journeypersons needed to complete the project. It does create jobs for the communities and usually we go over and above the Inuit labour requirement. If a contract goes out, we would like to see more Inuit employed at that major project, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clear response. (interpretation ends) An ongoing issue of concern for many Members of the Legislative Assembly is the need to ensure that construction companies and other contractors support local businesses, which often employ many local residents.

Yesterday my colleague from Tununiq spoke about the crisis facing our local hotels as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the minister will be aware, section 4.24 of the tender documents for the Kugaaruk project indicate that the contractor is required to "house and feed all of its non-resident workers, and the workers employed by subcontractors and agents, in Tourist Accommodations." Can the minister clarify how his department monitors compliance with these requirements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contractors that work on major projects are monitored by our officials or casual workers that will be monitoring the entire construction process to make sure they are following what they're supposed to be following, like the building codes and agreements that had been made. Our workers would monitor those to make sure they are following the agreements, if the

hotels are where they're supposed to be and the meal places and times are where they're supposed to be. All those are monitored by our staff. If any changes are necessary, there are rules that they have to follow to make any changes. That's how it is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the concise statements. (interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut's most recent COVID-19 update was released yesterday. The update indicates that a total of 1,917 southern construction workers have gone through the isolation hubs. Mr. Speaker, this number reminds us of the importance of providing trades training and apprenticeship opportunities for Inuit. As the minister will be aware, the tender documents for the Kugaaruk project indicate that "providing on-the-job training for Inuit workers is a contractual obligation." Can the minister clarify how his department monitors compliance with these requirements? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers referenced by our colleague are not the total number of people who went through the isolation hubs, as in some cases, a worker went through several isolation periods. As to the exact numbers of people separately, that has not been reported on, but I can inform my colleague that is the overall total of person nights as sometimes one worker may return twice to Nunavut, and I noted that as in one case, I think a third isolation was undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, as per my previous statement which I believe was over a year ago where I said that our department was considering caveats whenever they developed a construction contract, where I said we wanted to see more Inuit tradespersons undertaking training while on-the-job in the construction project towards their trades papers, either as an electrician or a carpenter.

We need more Inuit tradespersons today and we need passionate, dedicated people for that, especially since we now have a trade school to train people on, and by this government using these contracts as an avenue to develop more tradespersons, then the students would be able to both train and work in their field, and do certain courses on the job. This allows more opportunities for students.

Our trainees who undertake this training on the job will also be identified and reported on as part of this contract, as there will be an assessment as to whether certain conditions have been met, as I mentioned previously. That inspector will continue to ensure that they keep an eye out on whether these conditions are being met.

I urge all of my colleagues to relay any kind of problem or concern they may have been provided so that we can resolve them and you can inform us immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, followed by the Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove. Member Nakashuk.

Question 1029 – 5(2): Human Resources Management in the Public Service

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the Minister of Human Resources.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the issue of workplace wellness is very important, and we need to ensure that our workplaces are free from bullying and harassment.

Mr. Speaker, during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 23, 2018, the Premier announced that the government's current Harassment-Free Workplace Policy would be reviewed by a "working group involving female deputy ministers, human resources experts, and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit coordinators."

Mr. Speaker, that was almost two years ago and it seems that the department's policy has not been changed. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that matter. With respect to that policy, we are working on the details, especially the areas that require further detailing or fleshing out relating to office safety and harassment policies. This work is still ongoing at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, he tabled the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Ethics Officer during last month's sitting of the Legislative Assembly. In his report, the ethics officer noted that "some Canadian jurisdictions allow their equivalent of the Ethics Officer to investigate allegations of wrongdoing within the public service that are made by someone outside the public service. That is not the case in Nunavut. I suggest that consideration be given to the merits of this approach." Can the minister tell the House what the government's position is on this recommendation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just lost my note on that, Mr. Speaker. I would have to take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The question has been mentioned to be taken as notice. (interpretation) I will just continue. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Amittuq. Member Main.

Question 1030 – 5(2): Public Health Advisory Regarding Tuberculosis in Arviat

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask my question to the Minister of Health regarding tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker, in July this summer the Department of Health issued a public health advisory that there may be cases of tuberculosis at the Arviat daycare, either one of the daycare workers or one of the children maybe had TB. My first question to the minister is: after the notification happened, what has the Department of Health done in Arviat to investigate and fix this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. Mr. Speaker, when the case was identified, what had happened is all children and staff at the daycare had been tested for TB, including children who had been attending in that year. At this time we still haven't been able to identify the source of the latent TB, so we're continuing to do contact tracing and testing in the community to identify the source of the latent TB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. It sounds like this is still being worked on to date, so I would like to understand this issue. Are you sending more resources or staff members or funding towards this initiative? Has the Department of Health developed this while this medical problem is being resolved, or have the previous staff members or the funding that was made available beforehand been released and is the fund still unchanged to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health, Mr. Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health has taken this very seriously. We have put between two and three TB nurses into the community for the majority of the year. In addition to that, in the very near future, there will also be two senior members of the Department of Health that will be going into Arviat to help develop the capacity.

If I caught the last part of the question correctly, I believe the member was asking about the money being transferred from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, through Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was allocated up to \$13.8 million. Of that, to date we have received approximately \$1.5 million, although we are anticipating some finalization of some of the funding for the community-wide screening in Kinngait. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your next and final supplementary question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I mentioned in my member's statement the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the need to not lose sight of the challenges around tuberculosis.

My last question for the minister is: in terms of trying to eliminate tuberculosis within Nunavut or Inuit Nunangat, what has been the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on getting towards eliminating tuberculosis? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickee.

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on our TB path forward. There have been a number of different meetings that have been delayed; training opportunities for staff that have been delayed; organizations that we normally partnership like our territorial TB committee hasn't met face to face since last January. They do have monthly meetings, but it is challenging to coordinate a fulsome response to tuberculosis across the territory when all of our stakeholders aren't able to meet face to face on a regular basis and making sure that resources are allocated properly to help combat tuberculosis across the territory.

I think, in a nutshell, I recognize that the member has concerns that TB has fallen off the table, so to speak, because of COVID-19, but I can assure the member that especially in Arviat we have continued to work on contact tracing. Discussions are on hold for any community-wide screenings right now. It would be ill-advised under the current COVID-19 restrictions, but we're going to continue to work with our partners with Public Health Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other stakeholders to continue our measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Member Kaernerck.

Question 1031 – 5(2): Funding for Makinnasuaqtiit Society

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Acting Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, this is concerning the funding included in the 2020-21 capital estimates for the Nunavummi Makinnasuaqtiit Society. The funding amount that they received initially hasn't changed from \$100,000. While you are the Acting Minister of Family Services, I wonder if the funding can be increased. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We request funding annually that we provide to various entities. The amount has stayed at \$100,000 to date. I don't know the exact details, but this funding was approved and I thank this House for approving the funding so that it can be made available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerik.

Mr. Kaernerik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I stated, they are human beings, so how can the Department of Family Services provide more support to them? Makinnasuaqtiit must also have a committee. Do they have members from the communities attending meetings? Where is their office located? Makinnasuaqtiit is an independent body. Where is their office located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand correctly, in looking at the briefing notes, they have an office here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Kaernerik.

Mr. Kaernerik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me try stretch out my question.

>>*Laughter*

Now, as I stated earlier, some of my constituents in Igloolik and Sanirajak have physical disabilities, such as those with prosthetic legs and those who require wheelchairs. Perhaps I'll ask a two-part question. He can probably respond to both or not. With this funding of \$100,000, is it used to attend meetings here or when they require a capital item, such as when they want to use money to purchase batteries to run equipment, is that money used that way or how is it spent? Is it only for meetings? I also stated that people with disabilities require assistance. Can you explain to this House what this funding of \$100,000 is geared towards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague very much for asking that question. I believe that they should receive further assistance. The \$100,000 is for the operations of the office and their meetings. They also receive support from various sources.

For example, the (interpretation ends) Rick Hansen Foundation (interpretation) provides funding. They review proposals for equipment to assist people with disabilities and they make funding available. It can be within \$100,000 or it can be outside that amount. I don't know exactly where it's directed, but there have been proposals from people with disabilities across Nunavut and they have received funding. I would like that to continue.

When the funds become available again, if it's not prominent enough, we will try to promote it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, followed by the Member for Uqqummiut. Member Simailak.

Question 1032 – 5(2): Resourcing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everyone. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, I tabled correspondence from the Municipality of Baker Lake during last Friday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, which the minister has now had the opportunity to review with care.

As the minister will have noted, the municipality has paid tribute to the members of our local Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment, a sentiment that I wholeheartedly share. However, the municipality has also raised serious concerns regarding the status of the construction of a much-needed new detachment facility for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and recognize that the minister does not unilaterally control the Royal Canadian Mounted Police budgetary and resource allocations in the territory. Can she clarify how her department works with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to determine its capital planning needs for new detachment facilities and other infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. I also thank the member for his efforts to support his local RCMP detachment. I agree the detachment is outdated and is in need of replacement. It is therefore set as a high priority replacement and is currently third on the priority list. With the Department of Justice, the building priorities are determined by the RCMP based on the health and safety risk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. As the minister will have also noted, the Municipality of Baker Lake has identified the need for enhancements to the number of officers who are assigned to the community's Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment. Can the minister clarify what criteria are used to determine the number of officers assigned to a detachment, and will she commit to working with the "V" Division to identify ways of increasing the number of officers posted to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. When a community requests for an extra RCMP officer within their community, usually by motion it is sent to the Department of Justice and we work in collaboration with the "V" Division here in Iqaluit.

I just want the member to be aware that there are currently five positions in Baker Lake and one is currently filled by a relief staff member and we're hoping to fill that position shortly. Baker Lake is slated for an extra position on April 1, 2022, making Baker Lake having six officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her responses. As the minister is aware, the current Territorial Police Service Agreement between the federal and territorial governments was renewed in the year 2012 for a 20-year period. As the minister will recall, she tabled the current shared directional statement between her department and the RCMP's "V" Division at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of March 12, 2020. Recent news reports indicate that there have been discussions about reinvigorating a community constable program, which would enhance Inuit representation in the force. Can the minister update the House on what resources have been allocated to this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for raising this issue. I'm happy to say that I, too, am in support of having special constables in Nunavut. Currently we have four positions in Nunavut and I have been working diligently with the "V" Division and in bringing this issue up with Brenda Lucki, who is the commissioner of the RCMP, and we have asked that the RCMP work to revitalize the special constable program. I hope that in the near future I can come to this House and give good news to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, followed by the Member for Kugluktuk. Member Keyootak.

Question 1033 – 5(2): Status of Agguttinni Territorial Park

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to the people of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq who are listening to the proceedings, as well as my colleagues.

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

As the minister will recall, he and his federal counterpart issued an announcement on September 10, 2019 concerning federal funding for the new Agguttinni Territorial Park, which is located near the community of Clyde River in my constituency of Uqqummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the federal announcement of \$4.7 million is good news. Can the minister confirm how much of the federal funding has been received by the territorial government and can he confirm how much of this federal funding has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$4.7 million is for four years. For example, if we got \$1 million in the first year, the Government of Nunavut would have to contribute \$1 million. We don't have the full amount. It will take four years to get that \$4.7 million from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify what impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on his department's plans to develop the new park? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The COVID-19 pandemic has had little impact on the Agguttinni Territorial Park. There's a bit of a delay, but we're thinking that it will be complete in those four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, his department issued a call for nominations in June of last year for members of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park Joint Planning and Management Committee. The role of this

committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the Government of Nunavut on all aspects related to the planning, establishment, and operation and management of territorial parks. Can the minister confirm who has been appointed to the Agguttinni Territorial Park Joint Planning and Management Committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The territorial parks have separate committees on how the park will be operated and they set what the goals would be. The Agguttinni Territorial Park Joint Planning and Management Committee had been formed, but I don't have the names with me. I will inform the member who the members of the committee are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Pedersen.

Question 1034 – 5(2): Kitikmeot Wildlife Management

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Environment and they again concern the issue of wildlife management in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, the 2020 annual general meeting of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was held last week in the Kitikmeot community of Cambridge Bay. One of the issues that were raised with the minister during his appearance was caribou management in relation to the Dolphin and Union caribou herd.

Can the minister indicate how his department is responding to the concerns raised by delegates at the annual general meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was at the NTI AGM and the Dolphin and Union total allowable harvest was raised and the total allowable harvest is 42 and it's an interim measure that I have put in place until we get further information of whether we need to adjust this total allowable harvest either up or down.

The Dolphin and Union caribou herd, in the last survey in 2018, was down to 4,000 animals. We're in the process of doing a survey, hopefully starting by the end of this month, and then we will have a better idea if 42 is a proper number or not. Consultations on the process were done, but due to COVID-19 reasons, it was not done the normal way.

Once the survey results are done, all the information will be shared with all the affected communities that harvest Dolphin and Union, and a recommendation will be made to the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board as to what the total allowable harvest should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard a number of concerns from hunters and other constituents regarding the issue of muskox management in the Kitikmeot. As the minister will recall, he tabled the five-year report on wildlife management under the *Wildlife Act* at the Legislative Assembly's sitting of June 5, 2019. The report indicates that the Kitikmeot Muskox Management Plan has "been developed cooperatively with co-management partners to improve muskox management in the Kitikmeot region from 2013 to 2017...the plan was accepted by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the Minister of Environment in 2017." Can the minister indicate if the plan is currently being updated and can he highlight what major muskox management initiatives his department is currently working on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that particular management plan in front of me, but what I can say is that we know from surveys and from reports from the hunters that the muskox population in the Kitikmeot is on the decline and it is not from overharvesting. The total allowable harvest is still there and I believe they have not been met. The best I can say is that we work with the HTOs and the NWMB. The management plan, I'm sorry, I don't have it in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Pedersen.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's next regular meeting will be held on December 2, 2020. Can the minister confirm what agenda items his department will be bringing forward to the board for consideration in relation to wildlife management in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, I believe their agenda is some of their might be public and some might not be, but we will be working with them and we will have some issues that we will be bringing them up with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. I can talk to the member once the management board has their meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, followed by the Member for Gjoa Haven. Member Angnakak.

Question 1035 – 5(2): Sexual Offenders

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, the issue of sexual predators and offenders was raised again last week in the Legislative Assembly. In response to a question asked by one of my colleagues, the minister indicated that over 200 offenders who had been convicted of sex offences against minors were living in the territory as of August of this year.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent September sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the most current annual report of the Representative for Children and Youth was tabled in the House. Information contained in the report indicates that the Department of Justice had provided figures to the representative's office which identified that there were a total of almost 440 "in-territory registered sexual offenders with offences against children and/or youth."

Mr. Speaker, it's important that the government has an accurate picture of how many sexual predators and offenders are living in our communities. Will the minister commit to reviewing the discrepancy between these sets of figures and getting back to the House with a clarification on the numbers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. I can commit to providing that information for accuracy for the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary question, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her commitment to getting back to the House with this information.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to holding televised hearings next year on the Representative for Children and Youth's most current annual report and having witnesses from the government appear before us to account for what actions they are taking to address the issues that the representative has raised. In her report to the Legislative Assembly, the representative cites findings from Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada which indicate that "child sexual abuse has been normalized for Inuit children."

Mr. Speaker, this is utterly unacceptable. What is the Department of Justice's position on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Justice, we're very passionate about child sex offenders. We're very passionate about the people that we try to protect and try to make sure that our children are protected under the Department of Justice's programs and services, including working with the RCMP. I look forward to the televised [hearing] so that I, too, will be watching to ensure that all the questions and concerns that come out of this televised hearing can be addressed so that we can help those vulnerable children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, look forward to that, but I'm also hoping that the minister would recognize that these things need to be addressed today, right now.

In her report, the representative indicates that she was "...shocked at the frequency and extent of violence and physical and sexual abuse noted. Equally as alarming was the lack of response these incidents received from the Department of Family Services. Investigations were inconsistently conducted into these circumstances and steps to reduce the potential risk of further exposure and/or harm to the young person(s) involved were not taken due to a lack of adequate options available for both victims and offenders, or because keeping a family unit together, despite safety concerns, was prioritized."

Can the Minister of Justice clarify how her department is working with Family Services to address the need for "better options for both victims and offenders" in order that children can be better protected from the risk of sexual abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her questions and how passionate she is about child sexual offenders, just as I am and just as Member Lightstone, and I appreciate the concern that our members have in this House.

Working with the Department of Family Services, we're always looking at ways to help individuals, especially children and their families, to ensure that their health and safety is priority one. I can assure that we will be discussing further how much more we can do for these vulnerable children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak. Member Akoak.

Question 1036 – 5(2): Transitional Housing

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, community of Gjoa Haven and my family watching, and to my father, who is the real Mr. Akoak.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's most recent Status of Housing Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly during our recent September sitting. One of the issues addressed in the Status of Housing Report is the subject of transitional housing, which was discussed during yesterday's sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker, on page 14 of the report, the Status of Housing Report indicates that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been involved with "advance planning and proposed business cases for transitional housing and two new shelters, the pilot shelter, and four new family violence shelters."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the communities in which these new facilities are planned to be located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now I cannot say which communities they will be in. I don't have that information in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we were given good news by one of the ministers. It's in the *Hansard*. It's right here.

Mr. Speaker, during yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Community and Government Services confirmed that one of the government's planning studies for the 2021-22 fiscal year is for "transitional housing." Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be involved with this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's involvement, we take it, would be in the tendering out and the construction of these buildings. That's what the housing corporation does. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your second and final supplementary question, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of people who really do need help in Nunavut and we all are working for that for the betterment of Nunavut, all communities, and we're thinking about the little ones and the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify how much funding the Nunavut Housing Corporation has allocated in its current 2020-21 budget for work related to transitional housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Acting Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry to say that I don't have the figures in front of me, but I will get them and I will inform the member of those figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Lightstone.

Question 1037 – 5(2): Reducing Child Sexual Abuse

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must begin by thanking my colleague, Ms. Angnakak, for following up on a question that I had asked last week. I was actually planning on posing that same question this morning.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Justice and are also on the topic related to child sexual abuse in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, during our winter sitting in February of this year during the Committee of the Whole review of the Department of Justice, I had posed similar questions on the topic to the minister and the minister had brought up an interesting topic, the Killiliisa strategy, which Greenland had put together to reduce child sexual abuse in Greenland communities.

Mr. Speaker, a number of months have passed since the winter sitting, so I would like to ask the Minister of Justice on any progress that the department has made in reviewing this strategy aimed at reducing child sexual abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. As the members know, this government has been very busy with the pandemic itself and due to a change in our deputy minister over the last few months, I and the deputy minister have not had a chance to review this Greenland strategy, but we will be reviewing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your first supplementary question, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response and the commitment to review this strategy. I myself have read this strategy, the English translation of it, and all of the information in there is relevant to our own communities here in Nunavut and not just all the information but also the strategy itself is transferrable, so to speak, and could easily be replicated and utilized here in our own territory.

Mr. Speaker, this Greenland strategy was released in 2018, so it has been in the public for two years now. Mr. Speaker, the strategy itself addresses a number of issues, including normalcy of child sexual abuse. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that it addresses is the lack of support for victims and perpetrators as well.

In the response to my question, the minister last week had indicated that there were some programs in place, but I do not believe that they're adequate compared to those that are identified in Greenland's strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the strategy indicates how important it is for the victims of child sexual abuse to receive appropriate long-term treatment, as the strategy had indicated that a number of predators had once been victims themselves, which long-term therapy is required for victims to ensure that they don't themselves become perpetrators.

I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if anywhere in the current program or programs available to victims and offenders, whether or not this type of service is included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. I, too, look forward to reviewing this Greenland sexual abuse strategy and hopefully the member can work alongside with me so that we can work on trying to come up with solutions for Nunavummiut.

The programming that currently is being held for sexual offenders who are in Nunavut, hopefully we can give them more programming and hopefully, within our new facility, which is the Qikiqtani Healing Centre, hopefully with the completion of this facility, we will be able to hold that programming right in Nunavut itself. I'm hoping that with my upcoming appearance in Committee of the Whole, so that we can continue with the completion of our facility, we can move forward so that victims and abusers can get the programming that they need so that they don't have to reoffend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired. We will proceed. No. 7. Written Questions. No. 8. (interpretation ends)

Returns to Written Questions. No. 9. Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation) Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. No. 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) No. 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16. Motions. 17. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 51 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:00 and Committee resumed at 15:30*

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

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues and people watching TV. Before I start, members, please note that the Member for Hudson Bay will not be present for Committee of the Whole meeting due to illness. It's just for your information.

I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following to deal with: Bill 51. 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 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Health and, if time permits, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 51?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Kusugak, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, to my left is Constance Hourie, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services, and to my right, Mr. Eiryn Devereaux, Assistant Deputy Minister for Infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Yesterday we were on page J-3. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. The next name I have is Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials.

(interpretation ends) The first project I wanted to get an update on and it's a bit tough to keep track of because new information keeps emerging is the fibre optic line project. As originally proposed, it was to connect to Greenland. I wonder if the minister could give the committee a brief update in terms of where that project currently is in the planning stage. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I do, I would like to take my first opportunity, Mr. Chairman, if you would allow me. Yesterday I had an exchange of conversation with the member for Pond Inlet where he was asking if I had mentioned Pond Inlet as I had mentioned Pond Inlet earlier in my statements and I assured him that I did not. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a correction of that.

In fact I did refer to Pond Inlet in my earlier conversations with the member for Sanirajak where I was talking to the member for Sanirajak and I did in fact mention Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay in the water treatment plant upgrades that are planned for those communities. I did make that, but at the time of the moment I had not realized or remembered that I made those statements as they were in a previous conversation, so I would like to apologize for the member and correct the statement on that.

In terms of the fibre project, as my colleague will know, we're not asking for funding on that today, but my colleague is correct that we are taking a look at the fibre project. In a nutshell, my colleague is correct that we were talking about running fibre from Greenland into Nunavut to Iqaluit and Kimmirut. At the time that we did this, we were pretty much the only area that we were interested in moving forward with the fibre project as funding was made available from the federal government.

Now, since then we have heard and are working with the Kativik Regional Government, as they have got funding and they are working to bring up fibre optics from Chisasibi and into Puvirnituq and, if possible and if their funding is approved, right into Salluit. What we're looking at now, our department, is to see if it would be better for our government

to tie into that line directly and go onto Iqaluit, and then with funding availability, we're looking at going west into the Kivalliq region and maybe going into Manitoba.

In a nutshell, that is what we are looking at doing and we will be studying those different options at this time, and there are different variables in that, in who and what communities we would be able to connect if we were doing this. That's where we are in a nutshell, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I should thank the department for the information that you have provided committee members to date. It has been informative and, I think, appropriate given the scope and size of this project.

What's the time frame? The minister mentioned some different options are on the table. What's the time frame associated with the planning process and when do you anticipate having a finalized plan as to which routing or which specific communities would be part of this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sincerely appreciate the support and interest drawn by my colleagues on this project. It was a very good discussion we had last week around this issue. I will be providing my colleagues with an updated version of the plan that I would provide them. As I said, it is very fluid and things are changing and we would like to include as many communities as possible and different scenarios. We are looking at within the next 12 months to have something more concrete in terms of where are going with this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Within the next 12 months, so the commercialization study that was initiated or tendered out, I just want to get clarification. That work on commercialization is continuing and it's anticipated to continue while the routing is being looked at. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of different things that we are doing while that is going ahead, Mr. Chairman. Yes, commercialization, I think, is one of the very exciting and challenging parts of this, never mind the routing part, but yes, those can go hand in hand and we will be taking a look at those options, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Nunavut government isn't the only party working on fibre optic development in Nunavut right now. The Kivalliq Inuit Association also has the hydroelectric line project, which would involve fibre optic as part of it. What's the venue for the minister's department and the KIA to discuss their respective projects and to share plans, maybe talk about working together, if there are any possible benefits to cooperating? Is there a venue where these discussions are taking place or is that something that is yet to happen? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes and yes. Mr. Chairman, in the past I have had discussions with the past president and light discussions with the current president in terms of where fibre optics is going from the government and where we would like to see it go. With the current development, I say current in the last six months; we're looking at going into the west, into the Hudson Bay area. We will be having deeper conversations with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and take a look at where they are going.

I think, in the previous conversations we've had with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, their fibre optics discussion very much tied in, from my understanding, with the hydro line and their push for a hydro line going north from Manitoba and the way they look at it in the discussions I had with them, if they are bringing a hydro line up from Churchill, Manitoba, then it would be a good time to be bringing fibre as well, whereas we would not be dependent on that fibre line.

I think we will have that discussion, a melting pot discussion at some point later on in the coming months when it comes right to talk about that with them, but right now we haven't had a detailed discussion with them. The understanding we have is their fibre is part and parcel of the hydro line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) In terms of having those discussions, are you able to commit to a timeline or make a commitment as to when you will sit down and have a formal meeting of your officials? I don't know if it would be the minister himself or it would be at an official level, but do you have any specific timeline for having those discussions that you can commit to? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This entire fibre project and where we go with it has a lot to do with availability of funding and how much it's going to cost and where we tie in from. If things work out to our benefit and the KRG, or Kativk

government, is able to get funding to all the way to Salluit, it would make our tie-in line a lot shorter and therefore we would be able to go further with our fibre. Once these kinds of details are ironed, then we could discuss further into where we can go and how far we can go with our fibre.

As the picture becomes clearer, then we can plan to move forward, but I would anticipate in the next stages of this, once we find that out, then we could lay out our work map to include discussions with the KIA. I'm not trying to be evasive about it, but it's just the reality. A hard number, probably early spring, we could have those kinds of discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I guess I'm a bit disappointed that there wouldn't be any discussions that have happened already in terms of assisting with the government's planning and also with the KIA's planning. Six months from now is when we can anticipate that the government and KIA would be talking about their respective fibre or their respective projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry if I wasn't clear enough in my previous comment. We've had talks with the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Our department heads have spoken with people within the Kivalliq Inuit Association who are talking about their power and fibre optic lines.

In terms of having a meaningful discussion, it would be about the time we would be having a sit-down with them to say, "We are able to do this. These are our deliverables. Where could you come in and how could you come in?" Those kinds of real discussions, it would be the most meaningful time, not to say we can't have any beforehand, but that would seem like a normal timeline and that could change, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister, for clarifying that. When it comes to the Kativik Regional Government, it makes a lot of sense, I think, what you're looking at doing, possibly lessening the length of your fibre optic cable lay and it could be a win-win, assuming that the KRG would be supportive.

What is the relationship between the department and the KRG? Is there a working group? How do your officials communicate on these two because they're separate jurisdictions but working on very similar projects? What is the relationship based around? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can, through you, have Mr. Devereaux maybe talk a bit about the relationship that we have with them in terms of the working group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The working relationship with the KRG group is strong. We meet and discuss on a weekly basis, and that has been on the go for the last three to six months since the point in time when they signed their construction contract to extend fibre from Chisasibi up to Puvirnituq. The working group is made up of the project director for the fibre project, so that's a CGS representative, as well as senior management and executive level, and we're in discussions with equivalents from the KRG organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last question on this project is the total cost estimate at this point is \$209 million, so where does that rank in terms of capital projects that have been built in Nunavut since 1999? Is this the single largest project that has ever been undertaken by the department in terms of dollar value? Is it in the top three? I'm looking just to understand the magnitude of the capital outlay. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: By air or by sea. Mr. Chairman, the airport would be the single largest thing. I think this would definitely qualify in the top three, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I want to move on to a different topic and again thank the department for providing this compendium of information based on the committee's questioning.

I'm going to refer to Appendix G, which has a listing of construction workers by trade and skill categories. Thank you very much for giving us this information. When I look at the column under CGS trade categories, it indicated to me that these are shifts and not necessarily individual workers. Under equipment operator it says 138; under painter, plasterer, drywall it says 17; general labour, 4; and then there are all the other trades, carpenter, electrician, plumber, welder, all these different trade and skill categories.

My first question on this is: to what extent has CGS made efforts to take extraordinary measures, outside of normal operations, to try to decrease the number of workers that

need to go through isolation and increase the number of workers being sourced from within Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, on a number of occasions, we've had discussions around this very important issue in this room and we continue to do that, Mr. Chairman.

When we put out the work with the client departments and putting out the tenders for construction of facilities throughout Nunavut, we're working closely within our department and client departments to try our best to increase the numbers of local hire people that are there. We're limited in terms of the number of skilled workers that are in Nunavut that are not already employed or want to work within the construction sector or with those people who receive the contracts. That number is growing constantly, Mr. Chairman. We do have many skilled tradespeople in Nunavut and most of them are gainfully employed already. The challenge we have is to try to increase that.

One of the things that our department is doing is working to include trades training within the contracts that are going out and including those possibilities so that we can have trades training within the different construction sites across Nunavut. It is a challenge, but we are working on it and I think our department, working with the contractors themselves, are coming up with some ideas in terms of increasing the Inuit tradespeople within these contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Looking at equipment operators specifically, we have a lot of capacity in terms of equipment operators who are certified and able to work. I'm just curious: if I have a constituent who is an equipment operator who is certified, unemployed, willing to work, how can they express an interest? Would they go to the Department of CGS?

It's unclear because when we have contracts that are put in place for capital projects, and we have talked about this before, the contractors will look at the community where they're working and if they can't source the workers from the community, then they will hire from outside. I would say most of the time it's from the south. I think that's just simply unfair to Nunavummiut who are unemployed, certified, and willing to work because it's my understanding that the workers that come from the south are provided room and board, and it's likely their travel is paid for too.

Is there a place where individuals can submit their resumés to show that they're interested in working if they're not from the community where, let's say, a dock is being built? I'll use Iqaluit for example. If you're an equipment operator and you want to work at that project, where do you apply? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like in any project, there's ample opportunity for people to apply for work. If they're looking for heavy equipment operators, most of the contractors that are up here have been up here for a long time and they do know their workers and they do know the workers from different communities. There are occasions where some people are asked to come with them to a different job site. In terms of the local heavy equipment operators that want to work, they just contact either the hamlet to say they're looking for work or the local employment office and the contractors themselves. That's a starting point.

The biggest challenge, I think, that is out there is it's not easy, but it is easy to sit here and say, "Oh, I know three people who would love to come to Iqaluit and work." I do too. It's easy to say that, but they don't always want to move, Mr. Chairman. We all have a problem with being away from home and seeing our family for two or three weeks at a time in any job site, Mr. Chairman. That's a challenge and, if my colleague has ideas of how we could improve that and create an employment opportunity worksite, maybe it's through our office. Maybe it's through Employment Canada or economic development, but maybe there is an office we could create for people who are looking to be gainfully employed at any of these contracting sites. It definitely is a challenge, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think that's a great idea, minister. Would the minister be able to commit to creating an office or commit to doing something to change this? I agree it's easy to talk about it and what I would like to see is a commitment for some action. I'm not trying to tell the department exactly what you have to do, but I'm trying to point out that this is exactly the problem. We're paying over \$14,000 for each one of these individuals to come up here.

If we're ever going to make a change and recruit more Nunavummiut and hire more Nunavummiut, it has to be now because I'm concerned that once COVID passes, the pandemic passes, the isolation hubs go away, there goes our impetus to hire local, because it will be that much more easier to get up the southern labour and we will be back in the same situation we were before COVID. Will the minister be able to commit to doing something in the short term to try to change this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I think we're all committed to try to improve the skilled trades, but I don't know if we have marine trade specialists. I don't know if we have unemployed heavy equipment operators and unemployed certified general electricians and plumbers and welders, Mr. Chairman. I think those professional tradespeople that are out there that are in the labour force that are being brought up, whether COVID or not, they have been coming up, Mr. Chairman. If we could put a stop

to that without tradespeople up here to fill those positions...we have a lot of trouble filling the labour positions, Mr. Chairman.

I said I was committed and I am committed to ensuring that we are able to employ as many Inuit out there that want to be employed, Mr. Chairman. One of the biggest challenges we have in any employment opportunity is that many of us don't want to leave our home community and be away from our family for two or three weeks at a time. It happens in this House, Mr. Chairman. We have families of Members of the Assembly who come when we have extended sitting periods. It's something that's hard and challenging.

Maybe we could work with the construction sector to say, "Okay, how could we work it so that members of the community that you're working in that are not from that community are able to come in and work for extended periods of time and go back and forth?" I assure my colleague that I am committed to try to find ways to improve our employment numbers and Inuit, and I will actually commit to try to find ways that we could find or create an employment pool so that Nunavummiut who are looking for employment in the construction sector could maybe go to a website or a go-at site.

I can commit to that and I will work with the appropriate department within government that is responsible for that and create something like that so that we have a go-to, so not just construction contractors but the government contractors can go to that site and look for skilled trades and whatever it may be, plumbing or electronics or what have you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Thank you for committing to set something up and I look forward to seeing that happen. I think we're on the same page on this. I think that we all believe in the potential of our local workforce. The thing is if I sit here and I don't push on this, it's hard to see how it's going to change. I don't have any feeling that things are headed in the right direction in terms of the labour force in Nunavut. I recognize it's not just the Department of CGS. It's not just your responsibility; it's all of us.

Just a final comment or suggestion, the minister mentioned marine trades and it's listed there. There are a lot of marine trades or it's a fairly high number. It's my understanding that in the future there's a good chance that there will be additional marine port facilities or small craft harbours being built, so it might end up being an opportunity for multi-year employment if individuals are interested in getting trained and going from community to community, if they're going to build a facility in Arctic Bay, if they're going to build a facility in Clyde River, Resolute Bay.

It's just a suggestion in terms of the marine trades, but I'm very thankful that the department provided us this information because it's important to understand this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad we have members on the other side who are as passionate about this as I am. Mr. Chairman, I've had many discussions in our boardroom to try to find ways to increase the number of Inuit working in construction, whatever that construction may be. I firmly believe that the days of hiring Inuit to bring in two by fours and Gyproc in building of a house are over, that we have a lot of skills. You may not necessarily have the Red Seal, but I assure you that there's many a good carpenter, Gyproc layers out there, just as good as the best across this country and they deserve a fair opportunity for employment. I'm glad that we have that passion in this room, Mr. Chairman, and there are opportunities out there.

If I can, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to put a shout-out there. We do have contractors and people in the construction industry who hire a lot of local people, a lot of Nunavummiut to do work. Canadrill is one example of many of young men from Nunavut that are travelling across this territory, putting pilings into every community. Those are Nunavummiut who are travelling and working for Nunavummiut. It's always such a good thing to see. I take a shout-out to them and other contractors out there who hire a lot of Nunavummiut who are very skilled at their trade. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name on my list: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends)
Welcome, minister and officials.

(interpretation) The first question I want to ask relates to the (interpretation ends) Solid Waste Facilities Bundle 2, (interpretation) where it identifies that the Hamlet of Pangnirtung has work planned on the solid waste site. What is the status of that work now? Has your department contacted the hamlet or have you conducted further work on this solid waste facility to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the solid waste facility in Pangnirtung line item, there are different communities compiled into this amount, actually five communities where the facilities are in the designing phase. We anticipate the completion of the engineering drawings for the solid waste facilities with the chosen modular design planned for completion by 2022.

However, with respect to Pangnirtung specifically, we have received a request on more than one occasion to consider alternatives other than just burying waste by lining it with gravel, perhaps even to consider an incinerator or other options. This is currently being studied at this time as to how the design would look like and how we can move this project forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe you said that your department officials are working with the hamlet on this. To date, has any decision been made as to the windward direction of the waste site? If that isn't final, many complaints based on what I have heard relates to burning the garbage when there is no wind. The smoke tends to settle within the community and the smoke inundates several areas, which isn't very healthy. Further, this (interpretation ends) incinerator (interpretation) that has been discussed in the past as part of the facility, I imagine it has not been finalized either as to where it will go from here. What plans do you have to complete the work on the waste facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two issues we are discussing at this time. The first one falls into (interpretation ends) Bundle 2, (interpretation) which is a compilation of common work requirements resulted in a shared move forward for all of the projects. Pangnirtung has been identified as being one of them, and the project will also move forward at the same time, and we don't anticipate any changes to the project's progression forward.

We are working on this area and on the opposite side, we are conducting a study to look for ways to incorporate incinerators, and what style and what design would be best suited in looking at Pangnirtung's topography. This would include the simplicity or difficulty of funding the incinerator as well as the amount. This too is being developed separately outside of the scope of work under (interpretation ends) Bundle 2, (interpretation) where we are funding the study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to move to a different subject, as our colleague mentioned earlier, which I have thought about from time to time. When construction workers are scheduled to travel to Nunavut, I wonder if this government has applied to the federal funds that were made available for employees who lost their jobs or who had their responsibilities changed as a result were eligible for funding federally.

When employees are heading back to the territory, they are paid their regular salaries while undergoing the isolation period, at least as far as I understand it. Has the government applied for any federal funding for these expenses for their employee isolation costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These funds that we are debating are spent in addition to the costs we already are expending during this COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are managed by the Minister of Finance, and they determine where the federal funding will be allocated towards, and the funds are

allocated for the largest impactful or beneficial project. That allocation process would just follow that path. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From that time forward, since it is referenced here in the request, I would like to know if the applicants previously approved would have to pay for these costs as well. It is hard to understand how the federal government is providing assistance as it is overly complicated and only application-based funding is being considered. Would they add that to the overall cost of the total project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal funding allocations will assist and impact the overall expenditures of the Government of Nunavut. This funding will provide assistance to all the regions and this is how that funding would impact our territorial departments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Nakashuk. Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good day, minister. (interpretation ends) What's the difference between Bundle 1, Bundle 2, and Bundle 3? What stages are those? Are they like priority 1, priority 2, as priorities? If you can further explain on that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have Mr. Devereaux respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. When the new Building Canada Fund was announced and the types of construction projects that were eligible, solid waste facilities were one of them. At the time, working with all the hamlets, looking at a variety of factors, such as current condition, age, the priority from the hamlets in terms of their ICSPs, the department along with the hamlets identified a priority list.

There were approximately 14 within the New Building Canada Fund solid waste facilities that were identified that were then bundled into the three bundles that you're aware of. Yes, Bundle 1 would be the four highest priority solid waste sites across the 14, then Bundle 2 would be the second priority, and Bundle 3 would be the third. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) According to these solid wastes, when you put a community in Bundle 3, I guess they have to wait for how many years again? If you can put that to the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give some clarity, the Bundle 1 facility communities would have design in 2021 and construction in 2022, and bundles 2 and 3 would be designed in December 2022 and construction in March 2023. Bundles 2 and 3 have the same timelines; Bundle 1 has a year earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that answers his question.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Now, I would like to turn to this subject, in looking at Igloolik's future heavy machinery garage project, does it fall into Bundle 1 and does this mean it is now in the higher priority bracket within the capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): We're talking about solid waste site (interpretation ends) bundles 1, 2, and 3. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I don't get where he pulled the garage out of and how he extrapolated the bundles 1, 2 and 3 into the garage project plans and how he compared it and that is what I don't understand, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to remain in that mindset, in looking at the plans for these categories of bundles 1, 2 or 3, as I was just trying to completely understand the timelines. Perhaps if I were to word my question in this way. (interpretation ends) When it comes to the cost on the capital planning, the cost has gone from \$10 million per site to \$20 million. How many can get built with this money? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: How many waste disposal sites are you talking about? Is that what you're talking about? If he could clarify how many what, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You wanted me to stick to the solid waste, so that's my line of questioning. From this amount of \$10 million for those solid waste sites and then per site it's down to... . How many can get built with this capital planning projection? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're going to follow the planning of this and going forward, we anticipate that the first bundle, Arviat, Clyde River, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay, will be dealt with in design in 2021 and construction in 2022, and the following in 2023, the other communities and construction should start for the others. We're looking at 14 sites to be built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. I will just say okay then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and to your officials as well.

I've just got a couple of things I want to bring up, if I can add onto my colleague Mr. Main about the local hires and also the hiring of Nunavummiut. I was wondering: has the onus been put on the contractor to prove that they could not get any local workers where the project is and also, they could not get Nunavummiut to work as well from the other communities? Has the onus been put on the contractor to prove that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First question.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the tenders go out for a project, our procurement department will be quite familiar with the municipality that the construction is going to start in and they will work within what they know in that community and put out a call.

Let's say for example, in Iqaluit where there is a lot of construction happening right now, you might not be able to reach 30 percent Inuit employment within the community because there is the work happening, the correctional facility happening, and other projects, so that might not be an achievable goal. Our department does go in, let's say, for a construction project in Baker Lake. They might aim as high as 30, 35, or 40 percent as a minimum Inuit hire on a project there.

These are just, again, to work with that and those would be the minimum hire and they're encouraged to up that. In fact we are seeing across the board on the current projects we

have that we're pretty close to and above most of the percentages, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. Can we continue to work on that somehow? Like I said, can we put the onus on the contractor to prove that okay, the project is in Rankin Inlet, there's too much activity going on there already because of the Meliadine mine, so they can't get any local employees? Can we put the onus on the contractor to prove that they went to the Baker Lake career development officer, Coral Harbour, Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, or anywhere in Nunavut just to prove that they tried to get Inuit or Nunavummiut to come work at that project facility? That way we can keep the money in Nunavut instead of the contractor going south to hire their employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're finding that the construction companies that do come up are increasing the number of local hires they do have and the more they hire local, the less they have to feed and the less they have to house. It's better for their pocketbooks, so I think that happens naturally.

I think what we're working towards is increasing the overall hire, but we continue and we will continue, as I made a commitment to our colleague, to look at ways of increasing the numbers of Inuit or local people that are working in construction that do want to work. I think it's very important that we capture as many of those people who are looking for employment in the construction, when the construction is happening in their community, should have the full opportunity to be gainfully employed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response, minister. On to a different subject, the ICSPs that you guys were talking about earlier, working with each hamlet and whatnot, looking at the list, project plans and whatnot, I was curious. Each hamlet may not exactly be up to speed on regulations that may have changed and whatnot.

You guys work based off of their ICSP capital wish list and just an example, the wastewater treatment being in one community may not be meeting the new regulations that may have just come out. Does your department meet with each hamlet to update them on whatever changes have happened and to make sure that each hamlet is meeting the new regulations?

There are always new environmental regulations coming out and whatnot, so I believe they're getting stricter, and I'm trying to make sure that we're meeting regulations, if I'm understandable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department works with the municipalities in building and working on their ICSPs and we have our inspectors in all fields and, if we don't, we will hire inspectors in those fields to ensure that our buildings and equipment within Nunavut are meeting the specified requirements that they are supposed to, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We have been spending a couple of days on this page and I'm going to allow Mr. Main two more questions and we carry on. Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to get clarification on the solid waste facilities issue. Page 3 of the substantiation sheet for the three bundles, which includes Arviat in Bundle 1 for me and Whale Cove is in Bundle 3, it says on the substantiation sheet on page 3, "It was originally anticipated that each solid waste site would cost approximately \$10 million," and then it goes on to say that class "D" cost estimates for each site now range from \$7 million to \$20 million, and abandonment and restoration costs could increase those estimates significantly.

There were 13 projects originally put into the three bundles and now information in front of us says that "CGS anticipates that seven solid waste sites could be addressed within the total funding available. However, additional costs associated with the abandonment and restoration of existing sites could reduce the number of potential sites further."

If you're reading this, I would just like clarification. This leads me to believe that the number of sites that will actually be built with the existing funding is seven. It has gone from 13 to seven and it could be less than seven, depending on the costs. Can the minister clarify how the department will choose which communities are to get allocated the new solid waste sites as a result of these budget increases? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my colleague to my right, Mr. Devereaux, respond to some of those details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Colleague to the right, Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Devereaux: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I recall yesterday too there was a question around a specific mention in the information package on the capital planning and a reference to the solid waste bundles. When the New Building Canada Fund came out from the federal government a few years ago, we brought forward, in terms of this project meeting the requirements, a list of eligible or priority solid waste facilities. At the time we brought those 14 priority projects forward, we had a rough order of magnitude estimate and that's the reference there to the \$10 million.

Yesterday we spoke about the need to ensure, with some of the federal programs, when we bring projects forward, to get to a further, more developed planning phase with a better scope definition and a class “D” cost estimate that’s stronger. What we have been seeing as we have advanced through planning, because we have done a lot of planning on the solid waste sites, focusing on Bundle 1 communities, the site selection becomes a big cost driver in terms of where we’re potentially going to locate. In some communities it will be a new solid waste facility site and in other communities it could be the existing. If it is a new site, then obviously there will be a requirement to spend money on the restoration of the abandoned site, so that would become a cost driver and could impact that individual project.

For Bundle 1, we continue to try to finalize all the site selections, so that still is ongoing. We anticipate in 2021 to go into design, so we are getting very close in those three or four communities. What will unfold is I think once we go to tender on Bundle 1 projects, we will have a better sense on the market price and that will help drive the overall funding program amount, which we know is approximately \$150 million. In terms of how many additional solid waste sites we can do under Bundle 2, I think the goal is to do all 14. I think the goal is probably to do even more over the upcoming years because I think some are to water and wastewater treatment. The regulators are going to require us to address the deficiencies on these critical municipal infrastructure projects.

As we eventually tap out of the \$150 million in capital funding under the New Building Canada Fund, in two to three years’ time we will probably be better informed to advise whether it was five communities or seven communities, but at some point we will expend that \$150 million and then the additional communities will probably be seeking funding, hopefully under some additional funding programs targeting those types of projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Your final question, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the explanation. I should add that it’s appropriate that I’m talking about dumps so much because I love spending time at the dump in Arviat. It’s one of my favourite places to shop.

For bundles 2 and 3, for communities that are currently slated to be included in bundles 2 and 3, there’s cause for concern in that the budget under the New Building Canada Fund is not sufficient to address all of their needs. For those nine communities, how will it be determined which ones go ahead? Out of Solid Waste Bundle 2 and 3, I would hope that Whale Cove is going to make the cut. How will it be determined which ones out of those nine communities see new facilities built? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That’s it for me. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will take a look at where and what it is we can do with the funding we have available at the time to see which ones need it the most and prioritize it that way, and we will consult with the communities and the association of municipalities and so on, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page J-3. Community and Government Services. Local Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$24,986,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Then go to page J-5. Petroleum Products Division. Any questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just one question, will there be any remediation work undertaken with this budget or is it specifically just aimed at keeping tank farms up to compliance in terms of the tank farms themselves and not necessarily the surrounding ground, which may be contaminated or might be a legacy site of some sort? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe it will be to maintain and ensure that the tank farms are up to code. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on this page. Petroleum Products Division. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page J-2. Community and Government Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$26,486,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed to conclude Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the questions and the passion that my colleagues have when we're discussing petroleum products. It's hard not to get excited and a little anxious when we're talking about infrastructure for our communities and our constituencies, and I appreciate that.

Furthermore, I really appreciate the wanting of this government to ensure that we have more local people being gainfully employed in any opportunity they do have in Nunavut,

and I will commit to ensuring that we do our part in making sure that those who want the opportunity to be employed in the construction or in those contracting areas are given that career opportunity.

Again, I appreciate the passion and if there are any more issues and questions you have, please feel free to contact me. I am more than happy to work with each and every one of you.

I really want to take this time to appreciate the staff at Community and Government Services, especially the procurement department, who have worked tirelessly in doing what they can, especially when COVID is here. The procurement people have worked very hard to ensure that due diligence is given in trying to ensure that the hubs are taken care of and all that. They have done a lot of work.

The two colleagues I have on each side of me have done a tremendous amount of work to try to ensure the projects that have to go ahead in Nunavut do go ahead, even in light of COVID. There is some tremendous work there and also the municipalities that have taken a big step with us and worked to ensure that construction of these facilities that we do need in terms of schools, houses, and whatnot, went ahead.

I was very fortunate to have meetings. I met with every hamlet mayor half a dozen times over this spring and summer when COVID was on to ensure that they're informed and I appreciate them for their hard work through all this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I, too, would like to thank you and Deputy Minister Hourie and Assistant Deputy Minister Devereaux for answering all the questions that my colleagues had. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials. We will take a short break before we move to review the Department of Health. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 16:37 and resumed at 16:46

Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Health – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome back, colleagues, to the committee meeting. I would now like to ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, please introduce your officials and proceed with your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2021-22 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health.

I would like to introduce my officials from the department: Deputy Minister Ruby Brown and Greg Babstock, Executive Director of Corporate Services.

As it has been for the previous several years, the emphasis of the departmental capital estimates continues to remain focused upon projects intended to replace and renovate our aging community health care facilities as well as spaces that can accommodate the addition of new staff and services.

The department is foremost committed to providing safe, efficient, environmentally-friendly and welcoming facilities for both staff and clients across the territory. Health will continue to focus upon and leverage the support of partners and stakeholders in the establishment of new and innovative methods of program delivery, supported through ongoing capital investments that enable in-territory care, closer to home.

Mr. Chairman and members, the planning phase for the new Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre is completed, with resources for detailed design and construction to be requested as part of the 2022-23 capital estimates process. Baker Lake and Kugluktuk continue to be the next two community health centres identified for replacement and consideration for addition to future capital estimates proposals as planning projects.

For fiscal year 2021-22, Health is requesting an additional \$24.55 million for six identified capital projects. I will briefly provide details of each of these projects.

With the completion of the new Sanikiluaq Community Health Centre in the winter of 2021, the department is now requesting the budget to complete the construction on the Kinngait Community Health Centre. An appropriation for the warranty period is required in fiscal 2021-22 to conclude the project. It is expected that the facility will be operational and serving clients in Kinngait in the fall of 2021.

In partnership with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, a memorandum of understanding has been agreed to in principle to guide the establishment of an addictions and trauma treatment facility within the territory. The Government of Nunavut is responsible for managing this capital project. This project currently remains in the planning phase as COVID-19 caused a delay in the consultation phase, impacting the program design process. It is expected that Health will be coming forward seeking detailed design and construction appropriations in fiscal year 2022-23 upon completion of the project business case and establishment of appropriate class estimates to inform the capital proposal. Mr. Chairman and members, the provision of culturally appropriate programs through the in-territory treatment facility will allow Nunavummiut to seek and

obtain these specialized health care services closer to home, promote healthy families and communities, and reduce the department's reliance on out-of-territory residential care facilities.

Mr. Chairman and members, Health continues to make good progress towards addressing the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. It has been a key priority of the department to build long-term care bed capacity in Nunavut. We are moving forward on the design and construction of our first new territorial long-term care facility that will deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality and safe care to our seniors.

An appropriation is required in fiscal year 2021-22 to commence the construction phase for the approved 24-bed long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet. With detailed design work currently underway, construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2021. While this one-year delay is a later start than what we had hoped for, the facility is expected to be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2023.

Work continues on the planning of territorial long-term care facilities for the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk regions. Mr. Chairman and members, while the coronavirus pandemic has delayed the timing of our plans, we will be going forward to make a future capital appropriation request for a 24-bed long-term care facility to be built in Cambridge Bay. With funding support, we anticipate design and construction starting in 2022 and completion by 2024. A 48-bed long-term care facility to be built in Iqaluit will, with funding support, also start design and construction in 2022, with completion in late 2024 to early 2025.

Evergreening of vital eHealth infrastructure is essential to ongoing health operations. Health is requesting the budget in fiscal year 2021-22 to replace MEDITECH servers upon which the electronic health records of Nunavummiut are managed. Such technology will typically have a useful life of five years, after which proprietary warranty and service arrangements will have expired. Mr. Chairman and members, with Health's existing services approaching their end of useful life, this appropriation will ensure Health's information technology network infrastructure is kept modern and reliable and reduces the risk of operational and data loss due to equipment failures.

The department is requesting its annual budget allocation of \$1.5 million for small capital procurements. The small capital appropriation is for the procurement and replacement of the department's medical equipment, vehicles and furniture. I will provide you with a listing of the equipment, vehicles, and furniture that we are planning to replace in 2021-22 once the priority listing is finalized.

Mr. Chairman and members, similarly, the department is requesting its annual appropriation of \$3.5 million for ongoing lifecycle capital projects and maintenance of Health's fixed assets. This yearly allocation is dedicated to minor renovations, repairs, modifications, and upgrades of departmental facilities territory wide and is essential to ensure effective lifecycle management of Health's assets. We have also set aside

contingency funding within this envelope for any emergency repairs that may be required at health facilities during the year.

In closing, Mr. Chairman and members, the department is consistently looking to further enhance the design elements of new health centres and other new health facilities to better meet the needs of the department, our communities and all their residents. This capital plan proposal is focused to ensure clinical facilities and the essential services they provide are available to Nunavummiut by replacing aging health care facilities and information technology network infrastructure, promoting the development of new facilities and through prioritized approaches to ongoing building maintenance and lifecycle management.

I thank you all for your support on these important projects and I welcome questions and comments from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2021-22 includes funding for the final stages of the health centre replacement project in the community of Kinngait and for the beginning stages of the seniors' long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet. The 2021-22 budget also includes two Nunavut-wide items for ongoing lifecycle repairs and small capital purchases, as well as funding to upgrade the department's eHealth equipment.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of long-term care for our elders is an important one. The standing committee recognizes that constructing facilities which can effectively and safely provide long-term care beds in Nunavut for individuals requiring the highest levels of care, as well as specialized dementia care, must take into account the availability of supporting medical services as well as transportation needs. Repatriating our elders who require these higher levels of care and who are currently receiving it in the south, far away from their families and culture, has been a priority for some time.

Mr. Chairman, across Canada, the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in long-term care homes, has provided some valuable lessons in risk mitigation and health protection that must be applied to the construction and operation of Nunavut's long-term care facilities. Members look forward to ongoing updates of the measures that will be taken in this area. It should also be noted that providing additional long-term care beds in our territory will require additional staff and personnel. The standing committee strongly urges the minister to work with such colleagues as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, as well as other partners in the health careers education fields, to

recruit and train Nunavummiut as soon as possible to enable them to staff positions at the long-term care facilities.

Mr. Chairman, as we are all aware, a number of elders' homes are currently operating in several Nunavut communities. These community-based homes offer different levels of care and support, not necessarily the same as that which will be provided in the long-term facilities which the government is proposing to construct. Members have raised concerns with respect to the future of these other elder homes and the ongoing support they receive from the government, given the important role they play in keeping elders closer to home. During our recent sitting, a petition was presented requesting the establishment of another long-term care facility in a community which has seen a number of elders transferred out to receive care elsewhere, highlighting the level of concern respecting the future of long-term care for our elders across our territory.

Members look forward to the government developing and tabling a comprehensive long-term care strategy for Nunavut seniors that will take into account not only the different levels of care that are needed by our elders but also the different community-based options that have proven successful to date.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee continues to recognize that there are a number of aging community health centres across Nunavut that require replacement or extensive renovations. While the department's draft 2021-22 capital estimates do not include funding for any health centre projects, members have been given to understand that a replacement health centre project for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq will be introduced in the future.

Members have previously suggested that the department undertake, as part of its planning process for new infrastructure, some consideration of the remediation and reallocation of the infrastructure which is being replaced. A number of suggestions have been brought forward with respect to renovating old health infrastructure to meet community needs for shelters, elders' homes, mental health units, or youth facilities, if not to provide additional government office space especially in those communities where space limitations have already been identified. Members also encourage the minister in his efforts to ensure that accommodation needs for health centre staff are taken into account when planning new health centres.

The standing committee notes that no capital funding is being requested for 2021-22 to address Nunavut's future addictions and trauma treatment facility. Although both the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have committed to contributing funds to the building and establishment of the Nunavut Recovery Centre in Iqaluit, it is not clear what specific capital investments have been made to date. Similar to the need for long-term care workers, there will also be significant need for appropriately trained staff to work in the new facility, and members encourage the minister to seek out recruitment and training options for potential Nunavut employees as soon as the facility's programming requirements have been identified.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's proposed capital estimates again include two blocks of funding for ongoing lifecycle and small capital projects. Members appreciate receiving details on what projects have been prioritized under these line items for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2021-22 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am confident that individual members will have a number of comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Nakashuk. Well read. General comments before we go to questions? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I second the comments made by the chairperson of the standing committee. Solid waste management constitutes a major concern amongst many Nunavummiut, and each community has a plan, all different depending on the land.

As an example, the residents of Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and perhaps every community even have community development plans and it includes solid waste facility sites. In thinking of these concerns, where are the ears of this government? Can they not hear the clamouring of Nunavummiut and the communities? Even when trying to develop independently, this government never listens to any concerns as they have no ears when it comes to capital projects.

In looking at the capital plans, it states that yes, plans are already in place. Plans are in place for three communities to receive facilities, as it will be for elders' care. Let's move to the actual purpose that Nunavummiut want these facilities for, to show visibly and concretely that this government is listening to the communities by consulting them on their views on these plans. They say there's a plan, but we haven't seen it to date as probably there is no physical plan. We continue to query the minister where are the actual plans for these facilities. We were informed that plans exist, yet not a copy has been found.

Continual references abound about the report in 2015 about these facilities doesn't incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in any way, and again, public servants continue to expound this report and mention the details. Where are the follow-up plans adding the IQ components? Did they develop a plan? No! We keep hearing that they conducted a study on this issue. Nonetheless, the Department of Health was the sole department being assessed.

I believe this is a prime example of dealing with addiction treatment facilities, such as the (interpretation ends) addictions and trauma treatment centre (interpretation) that was originally considered. This is something that was planned. However, the government did not plan that as they were not responsible at that time. They wanted to consult with residents and many communities on what positions they held, which they stated they

would use to understand the scope of the need, and only after hearing about the needs did they finally show plans for this treatment centre.

The fact they went ahead and designed that facility quickly is something I like and appreciate, but I don't know why, whenever we speak about an elders' care facility, the curtain falls. This seems like a perfect type of scenario, to develop the facilities that incorporated residents' ideas for the addiction treatment centre, but why is there such a wall whenever we discuss elders' care facilities? I see them as offering the same type of care, so why isn't this being dealt with?

I am completely dissatisfied with the way this department handles this file and as a member also sitting in this House, it causes embarrassment to me. I know that yes, the elders' care facility in Rankin Inlet was approved last year, but in looking at the other communities that will receive facilities, there are no plans to review nor any consultations listed, which makes me wonder if we should not approve these other facilities now. I am not sure now.

I know at this time that there are no current requests for capital funds. However, in thinking of the most appropriate work undertaken, this government has to heed the wishes of Nunavummiut and what they think of this idea to deal with elders' care. If they approve that avenue, then our representatives would not oppose the projects.

However, when discussing the elders' care facility, if our elders are the ones who will reside in that facility, then our government must not try to singlehandedly control this process, as it should be the Inuit organizations and bodies that have to form part of the consultations. Further, communities and hamlets should be included because if we try to move forward with incomplete plans, then the beginning and the ending will mean that problems will crop up in the middle based on faulty planning decisions. More opposition will follow and future projects will not be well-received. At least that is what I take from my reflection of this process, Mr. Chairman.

This is what I find missing in this process, personally on the (interpretation ends) comprehensive long-term care strategy, (interpretation) and this isn't the first time we have voiced the need for such facilities, but when this government sloughs off the concerns, it makes it harder to determine what direction the Department of Health is taking. This is completely unacceptable, Mr. Chairman. I am done. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Any more general comments? Seeing none, go to page H-3. Health. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials.

I've just got a few short questions and my first question, when the minister appeared before the standing committee, we made some requests and I don't believe those have been provided yet. I believe the minister made commitments to provide the number of positions and types of positions associated with the long-term care facility as well as the

addictions and trauma treatment facility, as well as timelines associated with training initiatives. I would just like to ask the minister when we can expect to see those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the additions and treatment facility, we don't have that level of detail as of yet. We're still doing the program planning and the consultation process for that in conjunction and working with our partners.

With regard to the long-term care facilities, we're looking at approximately 48 PYs of differing levels, from personal care workers up to nursing staff. There's not a breakdown list of the care.

One of the things that we did experience when we were discussing in the community of Rankin Inlet for the facility... . Contrary to popular belief, there are consultations that do go into the planning of these facilities where we do talk to the communities and what they want to see and what type of programming they want available and what type of services they want available. We're still finalizing some of that with the footprint of the building that we're currently designing. There were obviously some complexities with COVID-19 and concern of acquisition of materials.

In addition too, there have been some discussions at the national level of having to meet national standards of long-term care facilities. We didn't want to get too far down the planning process before we get the results or the information of some of that. I have brought that up with both Minister Hajdu and Minister Schulte at the federal that when the work is being done on those parameters and code conditions, we would be let known sooner rather than later what those conditions are so we can work them into our design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. The reason that the committee requested that information was to ensure that proactive measures will be taken in advance of the opening of the facilities, to ensure that sufficient number of Nunavummiut will be trained while the facilities are being constructed.

As the chair of the standing committee had mentioned in the opening comments, the standing committee strongly urges the minister to work with colleagues, such as the minister responsible for the college, as well as other partners in health career education fields to work on training Nunavummiut. My next question to the minister is: have these discussions began, discussions surrounding training for the individuals who will be working in these facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those discussions have been actually ongoing for a little while now. Some programs are available already. Personal care workers are a fairly standard need across the already existing care facilities that we have. In addition to some of our health centre needs, we are looking at licensed practical nurses. We already have a registered nurse program here already. It's not just with Nunavut Arctic College but also other potential partners as well, so those discussions are currently ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on to my next question, for the Rankin Inlet senior long-term care facility, the substantiation sheet identifies that there is going to be a substantial amount of power consumption in this facility and the estimated power bills will be in excess of approximately half a million dollars a year. My next question is: will the designs of this facility incorporate renewable energy systems to help offset these operating costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To what level? I don't know yet, but as Minister Kusugak has mentioned before, any time we look at designing new, modern facilities, we look at available options on renewable energy sources or at the very least, high energy efficiency. That will continue to be evaluated as the design process comes forward. I can assure the member that I share his interest in this field. It's one that I have lobbied for in the past and we will continue to make sure absolutely, where available and where the payback is recognizable, that we will explore options down that road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Lightstone, if you can remove yourself from the chair; we have someone that would like to sit there. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. This provides me an opportunity again to talk about a very frustrating subject for me. It has been a subject that I have been bringing up since even my first term, and I must say I feel like, you know, you're on the treadmill where you're running, but you never get really anywhere. I do support Mr. Main's thoughts, words, and comments that he had. The need is so great. The government seems so slow in trying to address these needs.

I would like to ask the minister my first question, if he would elaborate how the decision to build a level 3 long-term facility in Rankin Inlet only and not looking at dementia care that, to me, is a real priority right now. It seems like "Well, that can wait for five years. We don't have any money." Let's just wait five years for that to happen, yet we are sending a lot of our elders down south right now. How is that decision made? Who made that decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at what we anticipate are needs, we're looking at needing approximately 150 beds by 2035. That's only 15 years from now. When you look at our growth in our senior population, we have to make sure that we're providing the services available.

When we look at a facility such as what we're looking at in Iqaluit of double the size to start with of the facilities in the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot, there's a lot more planning and potential partnerships that can be taken advantage of for a project of that nature. We have to start somewhere basically. We have been spinning our wheels. We haven't built a care facility in this territory in 15 years, when we built the ones in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik. When we look at trying to catch up, we need to start providing the care for the people to avoid sending down as much as possible, obviously, but also to make sure that we're providing the care to the levels that we can encompass and accommodate right now.

There is a lot more complexity, as I'm sure as you very well know, of providing dementia care and making sure that the training and the facility and everything and the thought is put into it. If we react with a knee-jerk reaction and build a facility and don't have the planning in place on training and the planning in place on the employment, we will be setting ourselves up for failure. We need to plan things properly and that is why we have decided to move with the 24-bed facility in Rankin Inlet and in conjunction to that, not that we're not sitting on our hands with the facilities in Cambridge Bay or Iqaluit, those discussions or those plans or conversations are happening at the same time.

Our capital budget is approximately \$200 million a year. If we look at all the competing needs across the territory, I think we're looking at a much accelerated plan for long-term care facilities in the territory. When we're talking in the next two or three years of having all the planning complete for all three regions, considering what has happened in the last 15 years, I think that's exceptional. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. It's pretty typical of the Government of Nunavut to pat themselves on the back and say how hard they're working, but this conversation has been happening now, just with me alone, if I think of even prior to myself being here, about the need for proper care for our elders. The need for dementia care is only getting more frequent. I hear of other people from other communities being sent down. Recently we had people from Pangnirtung being sent down and it's not like a knee-jerk reaction.

As you very well know, I have been working with this community to try to come up with something. Proposals were given to the government, partnerships were formed between the community, the committee, and with the Inuit organizations and we had no response whatsoever from the government, nothing, even though all that was set up. It would have not cost the government any funding because the Inuit organizations, the corporation was going to provide that. It was going to be a fee for service, but I think personalities got involved instead of really looking at the need. That's my own personal opinion.

We could've had that open by now and it's such a shame to the non-response that we got from the government. I understand even how Kugluktuk is feeling with their facility. At least they got some visits from your department, but all that seemed to do is just stir the bucket with nothing at the end. I'm really frustrated over this. It has been something that has been talked about for a long time, yet we just keep getting "Well, we can't do this and we can't do that." I would like to hear more "I can do." What can be done? If we wait five more years, how many more people are we going to be sending down south? What's your estimate? Do you have an estimate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minster Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to get into a big back-and-forth on what happened when, where, by who, but the member is very misinformed if the member is stating that there weren't any capital dollars requested by the Government of Nunavut, that there was a deal in place. That's simply not true.

Mr. Chairman, there were countless hours that the Department of Health staff helped contribute to the Sailivik Society's proposal, countless hours, and there was a lot of work. I met myself with the committee twice, with the society. I know my deputy minister of the day met numerous times with the committee, with the society. Again, I don't want to get into a back-and-forth. If the member has factual information that she would like to introduce to the House, I would be very open to seeing it.

That being said, Mr. Chairman, the plan right now is to have 24-bed facilities in Kitikmeot, in Kivalliq, and have a 48-bed facility with level 5 care in Iqaluit. I know it's not happening fast enough, I understand that, but we're on the path and if we slow down now and get caught up into changing direction midstream, it's inefficient. With the work that's being done in the Rankin Inlet facility and the Cambridge Bay facility, they are the same size, so there is a lot of overlap in the planning there. We're able to deal with two projects simultaneously for the most part for that.

There is a lot more planning. Again, as you very well know, there is a lot more planning that has to go into a facility that can deal with level 5 care and identifying the staffing requirements and the training requirements for those staff. I know and I appreciate the member's frustration. I mentioned, I believe it was yesterday or it may have been last week, that there is not one of us in this room that wants to send not only the people out of the community but out of the territory. That's not what our goal is. That's not what we're trying to do.

At the end of the day my responsibility as the Minister of Health is to provide safe care for those elders and that is the priority. Unfortunately that takes away from some of the high-level care in the smaller communities. We have to have the physician services. We have to have the infrastructure available to be able to care for our seniors, and the way that works is in the regional centres. We have doctors available in Rankin Inlet, we have doctors available in Cambridge Bay, and we have a hospital here in Iqaluit to be able to provide that high-level care here in Iqaluit. That is our plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know that the minister doesn't want to go back and forth, but I feel it's important to state how hard this community did work and there weren't countless hours; we hired a consultant that called the deputy minister before Ms. Brown there. I think she called her twice to get some information that should be available.

We did invite the minister and his deputy to come to a meeting where we provided a supper because we wanted your attention, so we could get your attention somehow, so we could talk to you about what we're trying to do. That's why we did what we did. This was all volunteers. People took their own personal time because they felt it was really important.

When I see something like this where it's not being considered until five years from now, and when I hear from families whose members are being sent, I can't understand why we wouldn't find options to fast-track this, as the government has done in other projects. I know they're not the same projects like building a school, but there are processes that could be used. It's just frustrating to me.

One of the things the minister didn't answer was I asked if the minister could tell us who made the final decision that this was the route that was going to be taken. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When my senior management provides a number of different recommendations to me and we look at reports and statistics and information, I don't want to say it's a group decision, but at the end of the day it's my signature that goes down on the decision. I bring forward my plan to cabinet and we decide on whether that plan is worth pursuing or not, and so ultimately it was the Government of Nunavut's decision to go down this path. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was a cabinet decision, for the record.

I guess this is my last, I think; it depends on your response. The minister stated earlier that there were consultations done and you went to the communities. I want to know which communities and who you consulted on this. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're looking at the community of Rankin Inlet, there were, I believe, two or three public meetings, if I recall correctly. I would have to check to confirm that, but there were some public meetings available for residents of Rankin Inlet to put their comments in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister telling me that nobody else was being consulted about the overall plan for long-term care? Was this just decided in Rankin Inlet? What about all the other communities that are impacted by this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we made the decision to go forward with actually trying to provide higher level care in territory other than the level 2 and 3 facilities that we currently have, it brings into a level of health care that needs to be supported, and the only communities that could support that level of care are Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Last name on my list: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To the substantiation sheet for the addictions and trauma treatment centre, on page 3, I really admire the work that has gone into this project and I look forward to seeing it built.

On page 3 it says, “The plan and the feasibility study honours Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and was crafted by a large group of stakeholders who came together over a period of several months, beginning in early 2017. Through more than 15 teleconferences and a face-to-face stakeholders gathering in Pond Inlet, they shared their perspectives and knowledge on addictions and trauma and developed a shared vision.” And it says, “The stakeholder group featured representatives from wellness organizations, the departments of Justice, Culture and Heritage, Finance, Health and Family Services, as well as Arctic College and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.”

I would like to contrast this with the planning process that the minister just outlined to my colleague, Ms. Angnakak, which I’m struggling to see which departments were included outside of the Department of Health, let alone organizations outside of the government, in terms of determining whether this is the right plan. My question is, in an addictions and trauma treatment centre, it seems like you have a great model to follow here in terms of how to plan properly and how to include others with expertise. Why wasn’t a similar process initiated to plan for long-term care facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are two totally separate projects and intended purpose facilities. When you look at addictions and treatment, the programming is one of the key components to it. The building footprint isn’t so much as a factor. It’s a residential care treatment. The programming is where a lot of the partnerships and the collaboration need to occur. When we’re looking at a long-term care

facility, it's clinical, with more stringent building codes and requirements, levels of care that have to be done to meet certain conditions, so that's where a very substantial difference is.

When it comes to the programming side of things in a long-term care facility, the footprint of the building so much doesn't matter. We want to make sure that we continue to consult on the programming side of things, but when it comes to the clinical side of things of what our responsibility is, to provide a healthy, safe environment for our elders, there's not as much leeway. There might be some changes in the common areas or there might be some changes with the type of view that a building may have to provide a more comfortable living space for our elders, but when it comes to the actual clinical need of the facility, there are set parameters to it. To be frank, there's not a lot to consult on, on that component of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On the long-term care topic, is the Department of Health confident, is the minister confident that this approach and phase 1 and phase 2 with the three proposed facilities or planned facilities, is the minister confident that if this plan was taken out and consulted on that it would be received favourably, that the plan currently the best that could be developed if consultations were undertaken? I'll try to rephrase it so it's not hypothetical. Is this plan what Nunavummiut want and how does the department know that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickeys.

Hon. George Hickeys: Mr. Chairman, I think that if we went out to a community-by-community consultation, every community would want one of these facilities in their communities so their seniors never had to leave. That would probably take up three years minimum of every dollar that we spend in capital and we would have to come up with probably another \$50 million a year in staffing to provide that level of care, and it would not repatriate one person back into the territory because we would not be able to provide level 5 care at that stage.

When we talk about consulting, we're obviously very open to the consultation process on the programming and the types of care in the facility, but the level of care and the clinical side of things is nationally...well, not nationally mandated yet. There are some national standards, like I had mentioned earlier in some discussions, ongoing federally on having... . As we have seen with COVID-19, putting elders into a building in a residential situation can be very risky from a health standpoint. We have seen countless deaths, hundreds, thousands of deaths across this country with very professional facilities that weren't ready for a pandemic.

We need to make sure that we're covering our bases properly, and my priority in all of this is first and foremost the health and safety of our elders. We want to make sure that

it's a comfortable living environment, that they're safe, that they feel secure in their residence, but we also want to make sure and we do consult with other departments and other entities and are open to any suggestion from anybody here on the types of programming that would be available in our long-term care facilities to make our elders... .

Let me backtrack here a little bit, Mr. Chairman.

We talk about respect for elders. We use that term a lot out in society, yet when you look at some of the conditions that we have put our elders into facilities, it makes me question: do we really respect our elders? When the member asked me if I feel confident that this is the way to go, the plan forward, I wouldn't be sitting here defending this if I didn't. We need to make sure that we have culturally appropriate programming and comfort levels of all of our elders in all of our facilities across the territory.

I am continuously working with my partners to try to bring increased level of services to repatriate people that we have had to send out of territory for advanced care. We cannot accommodate that level of care in the territory at this time and it's going to take us a little while to build that capacity. Unfortunately five years is a long time, and I appreciate that, but it's better than 10 years or 15 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are a few things in the minister's response that I want to follow up on, but the minister mentioned that if the department was to go and consult with communities, every community would want a facility. Is this an assumption or is this something that has been communicated to the department? Has the department actually consulted on what the desires of people at the community level are? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there wasn't a direct consultation, but you look at some of the discussions we're having here today and that we've had in the past, a petition that I received that I'm going to be responding to, I think, tomorrow, there are numerous pieces of correspondence I've had with communities looking to have care facilities developed in their community, whether it be surplus old health centres or building new. It's a very common theme with a number of communities that I have had correspondence with.

Maybe I'm making an assumption of saying all communities, but I think it would be fairly safe to say that none of us here want our elders to leave our communities. It's not something that anybody would want. It happens all over the country. In most places it's just a couple of hours' drive down the road, though. When they have to leave their home community here, it's a plane ride. It's a lot more complex and I totally appreciate that, but I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister mentioned that there hasn't been direct consultation, and why not? I don't understand why there hasn't been direct consultation and I think that perhaps some of these questions that are being asked today could have been avoided if a consultation process was followed. Why was it that we got to where we are today without direct consultation like the minister mentioned? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to say a couple of different reasons just off the top of my head, one, again, would be the assumption that most communities would want a facility in their own backyard, and two, the level of care that would be needed to be provided from experience, not an assumption. From experience of the facilities that we currently do have, out of the 44 beds we have in the territory right now, we know that we're not able to provide high enough level of care in those facilities to repatriate people back into Nunavut.

When we talk about priorities, like I had mentioned earlier, the health and safety of our elders is my first and foremost priority, but keeping care closer to home, again, when we do build the facility here in Iqaluit that is able to deal with level 5 care, there are going to be people from all over the territory again, just like there is in our contracted facility down south, but at least they would be in Nunavut. To me that is a priority worth pursuing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm trying to wrap my head around this. Direct consultations were not done because the minister or the department already understands what communities want and wouldn't be able to deliver on those, so that's the reason not to go and consult with communities, and then the level of care thing from the medical standpoint that the department understands what the issues are. I would argue that communities do have something to bring to the tables and that communities are capable of understanding things like limited budgets. Again, that's why I think this approach needs to be consulted on and it needs to be brought to communities.

You look at the Kitikmeot facility. If that's a solid plan, the department should be able to go consult on it, receive the feedback, incorporate the feedback, and defend your plan. I think that if you can't take your plan and consult on it for whatever reason, it's concerning in terms of being able to defend that. All the MLAs sitting here have to go and answer questions on this to their constituents. I think it's only fair that the department should have to answer questions too.

In terms of this phase 1 and phase 2, so we have moved on phase 1, but on phase 2, which is the Kitikmeot and the Qikiqtaaluk facilities, will the minister commit to

undertaking some direct consultation on this to the communities that will be affected? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can reach out to hamlets, mayors, and councils to see if there is an appetite to provide feedback, but at this stage of the game, I'm not looking at providing a formal consultation, a travelling roadshow to get feedback from every community in the territory. It's not feasible and it's not cost-effective at this time. I firmly believe that through different discussions, this isn't a new discussion that just popped up; this has been ongoing for a number of years. I've had a lot of different perspectives brought my way.

I don't want to get down again into the path, into the Kugluktuk situation again, but there was a lot of work put in to trying to make that work and at the end of the day the health and safety of our elders is my priority. When it comes down to brass tacks, I'll own it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) When we look at an example like Kugluktuk, where there's clear community interest and there's some planning that has been done, and there's a decision that's made to locate a facility in a different community, what options are left to a community? Using Kugluktuk as an example, what options are left to them? Can they pursue a level 1 and 2 facility? Can they pursue a housing co-op for elders? Is there simply no room whatsoever for a community that has some drive and some energy and desire to support their own elders? Is there no opportunity for them to provide that? I mean, is the door slammed shut in that case or are there alternative options that communities could look at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to think how to answer this without offending anyone.

When we look at committing these types of dollars to a facility to provide care in the territory, whenever we divert from that, and again, I was a very strong proponent of moving down the path that didn't work, when we sit back and take a look at an unsolicited proposal such as that, we have to weigh the pros and cons and the risks associated with it. Again, I don't want to get down the path too much; there are still discussions and potential legal discussions that are occurring in that respect, but I'll generalize them to a general community.

I have seen a lot of communities in other jurisdictions that have elder lodges; I think they're called, where you have apartments in a block, like ten apartments, for seniors to

live in with kind of a common area, maybe one or two positions of help to help cleaning or to provide basic services. It assists the home care delivery process for the community home care to help keep people in the community longer, so it centralizes the access to home care services. There's nothing stopping any community from pursuing a living facility such as that, but they would be on their own.

I think there are communities out there that have the drive and initiative, such as Kugluktuk. They have done some amazing things over there, not just with this effort that didn't pan out. I have been to Kugluktuk a number of times and they have put a lot of work into... . If they want something, they go and get it. It's kind of the mindset that I wish more communities would take ownership over some of the projects that they want to see in their community, but it takes work, like you mentioned, work and passion and drive to make that happen.

I would love to see more facilities like that open up. I'm sure the Nunavut Housing Corporation would be interested in hearing proposals from communities for residential facilities of that nature. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Thank you for elaborating on that a bit and I think that's precisely why we need to have a strategy in place, is that it can't be just these three facilities and that's it.

We need to figure out how the home care piece fits in, how alternative accommodations fit in, and what opportunities there are for communities like Whale Cove, for example, one of the smallest communities in the territory. There are elders living in Whale Cove who need assistance. They're living in housing right now that's not built for them. Does that belong in a comprehensive elder strategy? I would say yes and it could involve the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It could involve the Inuit organizations.

I feel like there's a better way for us to plan this out and I feel that we're going to run into problems down the road if we don't look at the full picture right now. The question has to the minister again: when will you be putting together a comprehensive strategy that includes stakeholders beyond the Government of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been discussions on a comprehensive seniors strategy for years, and I think one of the things that gets complicated or confused within that terminology is it's not just long-term care. There are all kinds of different programs and services, not just from the territorial government; the federal government, different partners, NTI as an example, that need to participate in

something of that nature. That is something that I know deputy ministers have been discussing what something like that would look like.

When we talk about long-term care, and that's what we're here to talk about here is capital infrastructure, when we look at long-term care, we know from our statistics that we are going to need upwards of 150 beds in territory if we want to keep our elders in territory in the next 15 years. That is what our focus is right now, to make sure that those people have beds to provide the level of care that they need.

I think it's a longer term plan or strategy, if you want to call it that, to look at how home care and concentrated living... I don't even want to use "facility" because they're basically apartment blocks designated for seniors, where a lot of the services can be concentrated into, but it's not a care facility; it's an apartment. That's a different discussion than what we're talking about here today. That's not just the Department of Health.

Maybe with my Minister responsible for Seniors hat, I would be open to having dialogue and continuing the dialogue that already is occurring to see how we could look at pulling all of that together, but I do want members to remember that as Minister responsible for Seniors, I have no budget; I have no staff. It's off the corner of people's desks in the Department of Health, in Family Services, in senior fuel subsidy, the services are scattered around, which is why, when the elders society put together that handbook a few years back, it helped pull together a lot of the programming and information that's available.

The door is not closed on future projects, but right now we're here to talk about the project in Rankin Inlet and in the future, hopefully, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit so that we can start repatriating people into the territory and providing the level of health care that our elders are going to continue to need and on an increasing number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The minister mentioned earlier about national standards for long-term care and that's an ongoing dialogue. It's my understanding that Quebec has already said to the federal government, "Back off. We're going to set our own standards." To what extent is Nunavut required to follow federal standards if they are brought forward or do we have the ability to develop our own? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't been following with intimate detail with Quebec's counterproposal or what their situation is, but typically when you have national standards, those are the minimum standards. I will say, and all kudos to

Quebec, that in most cases when they divert from national standards, they meet or exceed the national standards.

When you talk about capacity from within, I'm not saying that we don't have the capacity to do it or we do have the capacity to do it, but the federal government has a lot more capacity to be able to provide those minimum level of standards, then we would take that information and modify it into what is reality in Nunavut. When we look at national standards when we're building new facilities, we want to make sure that they're up to the current standards.

When we look at existing facilities, when you open too many walls, then you have to, as the member well knows, with any building code, when you intrude too much into the structure, you have to bring everything up to code again. It's a very fine line to tread. That's why we want to make sure that as we're building these facilities, we're up to today's standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have any further questions on this. I would just like to reiterate that I think that this plan needs to be defended and it needs to be consulted on. I'm hoping to see the department do that and not just consulting within the government, but consulting with partners outside of the government because I think they do have things to bring to the table that the government alone can't bring. I'm hopeful that we will some direct consultations on the plans laid out here for the phase 2 of this project. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, I have no more names on my list. Health. Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures. \$24,550,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Health?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Hickes, closing comments.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the dialogue. I know it's a contentious issue in a lot of cases when we're looking at providing care and in a lot of cases not giving people an opportunity to stay at home for the remainder of their lives. It's hard. It's hard for every one of us. No one can sit in here and say that they haven't shed tears over some of the stories or personal experiences that we have heard, and trust me; I hear a lot of them.

I appreciate the members' passion behind this. I think it's very important to continue this passion and I think, together, we will continue to make our elders' lives as comfortable as

possible and as close to home as possible. I think that is the priority that we have to focus on for the time being, but I do appreciate the work that has gone into it or other budget line items on this capital budget.

I know Mr. Rumbolt is very happy to know that the Sanikiluaq Health Centre is substantially completed and we are looking forward to Kinngait's as well too and moving on to the Qikiqtarjuaq project and as well as the equipment replacement in some of our health centres and the work that has gone into it by Mr. Babstock and his crew, as well as Mr. Demavivas with the capital planning aspect from the Department of Health.

I just appreciate everyone's attention and passion behind providing health care across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. I, too, would like to, on behalf of the committee, thank you very much for answering the committee's questions. There were some very touchy questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials.

Thank you. I will now recognize the clock and report progress. All rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good evening. No. 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 51 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Hickes. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

(interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. 22. (interpretation ends) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for October 28:

1. Prayer

2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 51
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

