

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

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

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(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-Niaqunnguut)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
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Minister responsible for Indigenous
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
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(Cambridge Bay)
*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

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

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Calvin Pedersen
(Kugluktuk)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapiq
(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 Joanasiq
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister
of Education; Minister of Languages*

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickey, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joelle Kaerner, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, 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. Keyootak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day. Good day, Nunavummiut. Welcome to those who are watching the televised proceedings or listening to the radio broadcast as we begin our proceedings.

The first item is Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister Joanasie.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 512 – 5(2): Official Languages Branch Reorganization

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker, members, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the reorganization of the Official Languages Division within the Department of Culture and Heritage. Mr. Speaker, this reorganization creates a new Language Act Implementation Section within the Official Languages Division and establishes the Translation Bureau as a separate division.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will allow the Official Languages Division to focus more effectively on leading, implementing, coordinating and administering the requirements of the *Official Languages Act*, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and *Uqausivut 2.0*. The Official Languages Division will continue to provide oversight and leadership in the Official Languages Administration, Inuktitut Affairs and Francophone Affairs sections.

Mr. Speaker, the Translation Bureau division, led by a director, will provide additional leadership and support to manage translations more effectively, while improving the coordination and quality of translations. Mr. Speaker, the Translation Bureau will be led

by a director located in Iqaluit and consists of 33 PYs across three different locations: Kugluktuk, Igloolik, and Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the recruitment and selection process for the director of Translation Bureau is currently underway. We look forward to the increased capacity of the Translation Bureau division and the Official Languages Division to carry out important work around language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 513 – 5(2): Offshore and Inshore Research Partnership on Ocean Tracking of Greenland Halibut in Baffin Bay

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through *Turaaqtavut* our government is committed to diversifying and improving economic opportunities across a multitude of sectors, including fisheries. We are also committed to *Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq*: Respect and care for the land, animals, and the environment.

I am pleased to announce today that we have partnered with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Nunavut Fisheries Alliance to prioritize the important research happening in Baffin Bay on our offshore fisheries.

This work is being conducted with our support by the University of Windsor and the Arctic Ocean Tracking Network team. Changes to the current research plan were made to make sure this research could take place while respecting all social distancing rules. This research is expanding knowledge on Nunavut's adjacent water Greenland halibut stocks and associated by-catch so we have more information to co-manage these sustainable and economically valuable fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 514 – 5(2): Human Resource Strategy 2019-2020

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to refocusing our policies and programs on Inuit employment and strengthen human resource capacity at all levels of the public service.

To achieve this, it is my pleasure to introduce the *Human Resource Strategy 2019-2023*, which I will table later today, titled $\Delta^{5b}b\Delta^{5b}\Omega_{\sigma}^c$ $b\Delta^{\circ}r^{5b}\Delta J\Omega^{b}\Delta^c$ $\langle^{\circ}q\triangleright\Omega r^{\circ}r^{\circ}$

Iqqanaijaqtinut Kajungiqsaigutiksait Parnautigijangit – “Inspiring Plans and Actions for the Government of Nunavut Employees,” which is in line with *Iviqtippalliajut* priority.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent challenges our government has faced, I am happy that we are able to lay out goals and priorities as annual and multi-year actions for Inuit employment. This refreshed HR strategy covers the period 2019 to 2023 to demonstrate and communicate continuity from the previous strategy.

Mr. Speaker, there are four goals in this HR strategy:

- Inuit Employment – We are continuing to increase and enhance Inuit employment in the public service.
- Skilled People – We are attracting, developing, and retaining skilled workers.
- Strong Leaders – We are growing strong and effective leaders.
- A Respectful Workplace – We are supporting a healthy and respectful work and service environment.

Mr. Speaker, my department will continue to implement the actions of this HR strategy as planned, while being flexible to conditions that may impact the GN’s workforce. The approach, pace and timing of implementation will be adjusted through the annual business planning process as local, national and global circumstances evolve in these unprecedented times.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to everyone who contributed to the development of this HR strategy. Increasing and enhancing Inuit employment and strengthening the public service are priorities for my department and in the spirit of *Piliriqatigiinni*/*Ikajuqtigiinni*. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister’s Statement 515 – 5(2): Honouring Long-time Nunavut Educator, Emile Hatch

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize a long-time contributor to Nunavut’s education system.

On October 18, 2020 Emile Hatch passed away from a short battle with cancer. Today I would like to recognize his contributions as an educator, principal, superintendent of schools, and the executive director of the Nunavut Teachers Association.

Mr. Speaker, in 1999 Mr. Hatch and his family moved to Clyde River, where he was first hired as a teacher, and then in 2001 he became the principal of Quluaq School. Known

for his love of the outdoors, he regularly went hunting with his Inuit colleagues at the school.

In 2003 Mr. Hatch and his family left Clyde River and moved to Pond Inlet, where for three years, he was a superintendent of schools for the Qikiqtani School Operations.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006 Mr. Hatch became the executive director of the Nunavut Teachers Association, a position he held until his untimely passing. At the Nunavut Teachers Association he was known to actively recruit Inuit educators for its board of directors to ensure that Inuit voices were well represented.

On behalf of the Department of Education, I wish to express my sincere condolences to Emile Hatch's family, especially his wife, Diane Hatch, their three children, Steven, Amanda, and Michael, and his two grandchildren.

His passion, energy, and commitment to education in Nunavut will be truly missed. Condolences, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 755 – 5(2): Recognizing Sessional Pages

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody. Good afternoon to Kuglukturmiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students here in the House who are working as pages during our sitting.

Mr. Speaker, they will be having exams soon and they need to work hard and stay focused to complete both their school work and their duties as pages.

Mr. Speaker, seeing these pages here takes me back to a time about 30 years ago. Geez, it's making me feel old.

>> *Laughter*

I had the good fortune of being a page in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories when my grandfather, Red Pedersen, was an MLA and Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker, today's pages are:

- Alexis Vincent-Wolf,
- Naullaq Lambe, and
- My daughter, Alycia Pedersen.

Alycia was here in the community and took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the proceedings of the House. It has been very nice having her spend time here with me, especially in this place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation for our pages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We recognize their tremendous assistance to us here. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North, followed by the Member for Baker Lake. Member Main.

Member's Statement 756 – 5(2): Aqqiumavvik Society of Arviat

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and my constituents in Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge this group by recognizing the Aqqiumavvik Society situated in Arviat, who make up the local committee.

It is becoming more common to hear about the Aqqiumavvik Society, as there have been news articles about their work, funding allocations provided, as well as getting recognition for their accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, hearing this aspect of their success is especially rewarding to Arviarmiut as they garner more accolades and their ongoing support by other groups.

The people who run that group, although I am unable to mention every person, I will mention Shirley Tagalik, Kukik Baker, Joe Karetak, and every other person involved in that work are the ones I wish to be recognized by my colleagues. I would like them all to be recognized by my colleagues here because they are diligently working to provide the programs that the community can utilize to increase capacity as well as ensuring cultural awareness initiatives in the community, and I see tangible benefits, Mr. Speaker.

They are using various initiatives, both in terms of training programs for work-ready programs specifically using traditional knowledge, such as being a good productive citizen and healthy community living, as well as IQ principles such as *Inuutsiarniq*, skill development, as well as teaching youth to hunt and it is called in English (interpretation ends) Young Hunters Program, (interpretation) and this is a very successful initiative.

They are heavily dependent on local resources. As an example, they try not to depend on outside help nor are they looking for consultants, but they use the local knowledge that

exists already as well as using local experts to provide the teaching. I'm very proud of that fact, Mr. Speaker.

They run different programs in Arviat that try to provide different skill sets to the local youth, and it is impossible to mention all of their initiatives. Nonetheless, as they garner more recognition that seems to be happening more frequently as the last acknowledgement came from (interpretation ends) Prime Minister Trudeau (interpretation) when he conducted a virtual tour of Nunavut. He virtually toured the place. Although he didn't actually fly on an airplane, he went on the Internet and reached the website of Arviat where he met with the representatives of Aqqiumavvik Group.

I know in the future the Aqqiumavvik Society will provide more newsworthy items and I know that the Aqqiumavvik Society will produce more interesting programming to provide locally, so I would like to have them recognized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are proud of those who provide those kinds of programs in the communities. To the people of the Aqqiumavvik Society, I am proud of you.

Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, followed by the Member for Quttiktuq. Member Simailak.

Member's Statement 757 – 5(2): Nursing Staff in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues and to everyone back home in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, health care has been of great concern for some time now. Even before the pandemic hit, our health centres would be operating on an emergency-based situation for weeks on end due to a shortage of staff in some situations.

Mr. Speaker, I know of people who have called at the time they're starting to feel sick. I have also heard of constituents who had genuine concerns about their health and they would try to call and book an appointment but would either be turned away if it was deemed not an emergency and told to call back in a few days or they would luck out and have an appointment booked, but it could be seven days away. When I hear of that happening, it becomes quite frustrating and I feel for my constituents that end up having to wait for days before being seen.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there has been an upward trend with respect to the number of graduates in the health profession in the 1990s and early 2000s. I had hoped that by now we would not have a shortage of health centre staff and health professionals.

Unfortunately it has gone in the opposite direction, which is quite concerning as we look ahead into the future.

Different questions start coming to mind, such as “Will we have an adequate number of indeterminate health professionals? Will we be able to keep the same staff members for a few years at least, that way they can get to know the health history of each patient?”

There are many other related thoughts that can come to mind for myself and I’m sure for everyone across our beautiful territory.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, followed by the Member for Rankin Inlet South. Member Akeeagok.

Member’s Statement 758 – 5(2): Tribute to Joshua Kango

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to commemorate a person with my colleagues, who was a very nice person and who just passed away this August.

I wish to mention Joshua Kango, who was a busy man, as he was involved in many activities, both here in Iqaluit as well as in Arctic Bay. Joshua and Natsiq Kango started several businesses both in Arctic Bay and in Iqaluit while raising their children and grandchildren.

They began with opening up a hotel in Arctic Bay, which also provided heavy equipment services in Arctic Bay. When they moved to Iqaluit, they began a couple of businesses, for instance, J&G Auto, and they were involved in businesses and when they completed most of their business work, after three years, they returned to Arctic Bay to be closer to his mother.

Here in Iqaluit he was a teacher in the (interpretation ends) Terry Fox Program (interpretation) that provided an opportunity to teach youth about hunting preparedness and in being taken on the land as he taught his skills and the students probably remember those trips.

Mr. Speaker, Joshua was also a religious person, where he was a layperson at the Anglican Church providing much-needed assistance. He was also instrumental in developing a men’s group and he was also an assistant to the reverends both in Arctic Bay and here in Iqaluit.

Joshua also served as the chairman of both hunters and trappers organizations in Iqaluit and Arctic Bay. He wanted to take care of our environment and to ensure our lands were protected.

Nunavut lost a very good person and to his loved ones he left behind, Natsiq, and his children and grandchildren, his mother Qaapik, his brothers and sisters, and people who knew him, as he became a friend to many Inuit.

With that being the case, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to share my sense of pride in his person and to commemorate his past work. Even though Joshua is not present, I would like to recognize the work that he did. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. He is in our thoughts.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Member Kusugak.

Member's Statement 759 – 5(2): Bullying in Nunavut and Other Negative Behaviour

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, my fellow residents of Rankin Inlet. Today I want to speak to the subject of antagonistic attitudes and unpleasantness. As Nunavummiut, we should not be attacking each other and belittling others anonymously. There are too many posters using anonymity in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we have risen in this House, every one of us, I believe, to put a stop to bullying in Nunavut. Motions have been raised and we have all stood counted to put a stop to abuse of women and children.

Mr. Speaker, we have zero tolerance of racism in this House and in this government.

Mr. Speaker, we have to try our best to put a stop to hate and violence and abuse that are growing rampant in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, there are many types and avenues for violence, one of which is cyber and multimedia use.

Mr. Speaker, many media outlets have stopped anonymous posts to try to curb, I believe, the use of anonymity to put down your neighbour, your friend, your fellow Nunavummiuq, but not all of them.

All too often I see hate, racism, bullying, and violence in comments sections of media sites. Mr. Speaker, we cannot stop the sites from doing this. We can't stop them from making people be allowed to post anonymously to inflict harm on their neighbour.

Often you will see posts filled with hate and racism and so on and right above that post or right below it, you will see job ads, government job ads, tenders, and everything else, both by the government and non-government and private sector organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for government and the private sector to rethink where advertising dollars are being spent, money used to keep these very sites open.

We all have a responsibility to stop violence, hate, racism, and abuse of our fellow Nunavummiut, Mr. Speaker. We do have a choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am responding to the question asked by the Member for Pangnirtung concerning a recommendation for the ethics office. On October 27, 2020 the question was asked.

My response:

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to ethical behaviour of its public service, takes the disclosure of wrongdoing seriously and encourages employees to come forward if they have any concerns or believe that wrongdoing has occurred.

The GN appreciates the recommendation of the ethics officer in the 2019-2020 Ethics Officer Annual Report. The Department of Human Resources is consulting with other GN departments and reviewing and evaluating the recommendations. Once completed, the government will make recommendations based on that analysis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would just like to note that it was the (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) No. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We do have some visitors that are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. No. 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, followed by the Member for Arviat North. Member Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1082 – 5(2): Enforcement of Court-ordered Restrictions on Alcohol

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to revisit the issue of ensuring that the government strengthens the protection of public safety by supporting court-ordered restrictions on alcohol. As the minister is aware, this issue was addressed in the government's own report on *Taking Steps to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm in Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, it's a simple concept: when a court imposes conditions on an individual concerning their ability to possess or consume alcohol, our government should not undermine those conditions by continuing to sell alcohol to those individuals at the beer and wine store or allowing them to legally purchase liquor through a liquor import permit.

In response to my questions that I asked during the winter sitting, the Minister of Justice indicated that she would be willing to work with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission on this subject.

My first question for the minister is: can the minister confirm that he has sat down with the Minister of Justice to achieve progress on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: I thank the minister for that response. I'm grateful for it. My next question for the minister is if he could elaborate and provide us a little bit more detail on exactly when and how many times that the ministers had met and what exactly had been discussed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Myself and along with both of our departments' officials have discussed this matter and when we talk about a generalization of people not having or under a court order not to consume or possess alcohol, it's very difficult to maintain a current list.

Although the topic that did come up is interdiction orders that can be put on offenders that we would be forced to enforce and would gladly enforce, no such orders have been ordered by the courts in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I would like to thank the minister for his response. I'm very happy and pleased to hear this.

For my final question, I would like to ask the minister, during the discussions, if the Department of Justice had indicated if they would be using this particular interdiction, if I recall correctly, and, if so, how the liquor commission and the Department of Justice would collaborate on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Finance wouldn't have a role in directing the Department of Justice to issue such interdiction orders. That being said, if such orders were put forward as a condition to an offender, it would be applicable to all licensed facilities across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1083 – 5(2): Contaminated Sites in Arviat and Whale Cove

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask questions to the Minister of Environment regarding contaminated sites in Whale Cove and Arviat.

My first question for the minister, as I mentioned in my statement, there are contaminated sites in the middle of Whale Cove and I know that the Department of Environment's workers have gone to the community to look at options and they have been working on that to date. My first question is: is there any update regarding the cleanup of contaminated sites in Whale Cove? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to that matter in Whale Cove, the land was the site of the old power station, and it is indeed contaminated with old fuel spills. We conducted environmental studies on this site in February 2020. This study was completed and a report was produced outlining the issues. The report is completed, and we know that within the community, due to the inundation of the spilled fuel underground, the lot is not usable at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. What is the next course of action required? Would that involve the cleanup of the site that underwent an environmental study if the land is not usable? What has the Department of Environment identified as the next steps? Would it require a cleanup and whether any

specific funding has been set aside for the project? I wonder if a decision has been made on the approximate cleanup costs and what expenses would be paid for. I'm asking if that information is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time the Department of Environment has recommended that if the lot is going to be used, then it would require an extensive reclamation project to remove the old contaminated soils underground. It is hazardous as it stands, so it is a safety issue at the moment, but if the land is to be used, then the cleanup would have to be finished first to remove the contaminated soil so that the land can be safe to use.

The Department of Environment doesn't actually conduct the cleanup work, but we work with other departments to find a contractor to clean up the site. At this time, based on my information, the (interpretation ends) Qulliq Energy Corporation (interpretation) has to undertake the cleanup of the site, and although we are not stating when, we are moving towards the direction of the cleanup work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my other constituency community of Arviat, another lot is also contaminated within the community and we have heard that in the past when they first started delivering fuel in a sealift season, that there was a spill that occurred back in the area of the original tank farm. When the ship fills up a tank, sometimes the fuel would spill out to the land and drain down a long way towards the beach. These spills occurred in the '60s, we believe and if I am not mistaken, or perhaps back in the '70s.

Mr. Speaker, it is known by people from Arviat that the drainage area is contaminated, but we are unsure if we should write to the Department of Environment about the matter, if an environmental study could be undertaken. What needs to be done firstly by the municipality of Arviat in order to work towards identifying that site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community members of Arviat should initiate this as we are discussing Arviat now.

If they hold any concerns about contaminated soils within their hamlet boundaries, if they know areas where fuel was spilled, then it can be hazardous and they should provide a background correspondence about the past spills that occurred in the past so that they can work towards doing a study to determine it. Once that occurs, we can look towards the next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1084 – 5(2): Elder Designated Homes

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Amittuq.

Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Seniors here. I would like to ask about the status of my other constituency community of Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, in representing a constituency as an MLA, you are informed on a daily basis while in session about concerns of our elders. Now, I have just received information about an elder in Igloolik who is staying at the elders' units, but the elder had to leave the unit.

As the Member for Uqqummiut recalled, some units have long stairways that are not conducive for those with limited movements, and this was the case here too, in the case of the elder in Igloolik. The elder is now staying with their daughter, as they were not comfortable climbing the long stairway.

My question is one I feel should be directed at the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Seniors. I know that there's a program where somebody goes in and cleans the unit. Is the Department of Health maintaining that unit with local cleaners? I would like to direct my question to that department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Seniors, (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation just did a minister's statement, I believe, earlier this week or late last week. They talked about how communities, through the discussions with their LHOs, have an opportunity to build more elder-friendly units, where those factors would be taken into consideration.

As far as the Department of Health's role in the care of the home itself, through our home care staff, there are some light housekeeping duties that can be assisted within the household. Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment just to acknowledge that the work that they do and the expectations sometimes are not realistic. I know I have mentioned in the House in the past that our home care workers aren't there to pick up diapers and to move stoves to clean behind them. They're there to do light housekeeping duties to make sure that the elders have a safe place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, I do understand that I should have directed it to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, but what I want to ask about now as my supplementary is since the elder is with their daughter, since they left their unit and moved to their daughter's unit, are they still able to receive cleaning services, or how can that elder receive more assistance while they are staying with their daughter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where the conditions are warranted, it could be a service that's offered, but typically when an elder is living with family, there are capable people within the household that would be able to do those light housekeeping duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the minister commit to the House to have his officials to go visit my riding and see the reality of what we face every day. Can the minister commit to this House that he will have his officials look into this matter? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Seniors, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly clear what the member is asking me to commit to. Our staff are always evaluating the programs and service delivery options that we provide to Nunavummiut. If there's a specific example of a circumstance where the member feels that there's a gap in that service, I strongly welcome any feedback or anybody out there listening, if there are concerns and feedback, I would welcome any comments or highlight any issues that are ongoing and I would absolutely direct my staff to look into those matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1085 – 5(2): Proposed Acquisition of TMAC Resources

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, the community of Gjoa Haven, and my grandchildren who are watching. Just a few more days left.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up today on the issue of the proposed acquisition of TMAC Resources. During yesterday's sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Premier confirmed

that the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation has been “having phone calls with the president of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association.”

Mr. Speaker, this issue is very important to the residents and communities of the Kitikmeot. Can the minister elaborate today on the substance of his discussions with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association on the proposed acquisition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For this acquisition for TMAC, I had conversations with the president in terms of what he called the due diligence that he was going to be making and that I would be in support of it in terms of what they’re bringing forward in terms of their due diligence.

I’ll also mention that any of these transactions between existing mine operations, we typically have our staff provide letters to any of the reviews that are taking place. For this particular case, this is under review under the federal government. We provided and I relayed the information to the Kitikmeot president in terms of what the government’s support has been to this acquisition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the September sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister indicated that his department has provided a formal written submission to the federal government concerning the proposed acquisition of TMAC Resources. Mr. Speaker, my constituents deserve to know what their government is saying and doing on their behalf. Mr. Speaker, when will the minister provide a copy of this submission to the municipal councils and Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the impacted Kitikmeot communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’ll look into this and see. I don’t know if we have already shared the letters or not, but I’ll look into whether the position that the government has put forward in terms of this letter and see where the review is in the federal system, whether that letter is in that state right now. I’m willing to look at it and commit to responding at an appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s always nice to know a minister has made some commitments.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Gjoa Haven, I have emphasized on many occasions the importance of ensuring that any proposed acquisition of the company comes with clear and enforceable commitments regarding Inuit employment, training, local business opportunities, and environmental protection. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly describe what tools our government has to ensure that these objectives are met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he read out the letter that we provided because that's exactly what our position is, is that if any acquisition is taking place in an existing mine, all the regulatory regulations, all the regulatory conditions that are in place are adhered to; also that the Inuit impact and benefit agreements that are in place are honoured, and any of the Inuit employment that has been targeted for the mine should be adhered to. Those are the key principles that were contained in our letter. I applaud and thank the member for having the same views of our government because that is critical for any mining company in this territory. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1086 – 5(2): Fiscal Situation

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good afternoon” to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, we're running out of time during our current fall sitting and so I have some more questions today for the Minister of Finance concerning our territory's fiscal situation.

Mr. Speaker, when we return to this House in the new year, it will be to consider the government's proposed 2021-22 budget and main estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we are all hopeful that the federal government will step up and help us address our worsening fiscal situation. However, I also know that we need to be prepared to take some actions of our own.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to budgeting, we have three clear choices: cut spending, raise revenues, or we can borrow more money. Can the minister give us an indication today as to which of these three choices he will be focusing on in his next Budget Address? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing is off the table. Mr. Speaker, we've got limited options when it comes to increasing revenue. We don't have a large tax

base and to put further hardship on Nunavummiut to deal with a budget situation is not a path I would want to go down.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to borrowing, I have no interest in borrowing money for operations and maintenance of this government. To me, if we're looking at borrowing, it would be an investment into like a facility or a large-scale project. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to work as best we can within our parameters.

Mr. Speaker, there's barely a government on this planet that isn't dealing with additional costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic and we're going to continue to work with our cabinet, with the federal government, and with other jurisdictions on how we can reduce costs and limit our exposure to a large deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, his department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities has been to "complete a fiscal review of the Government of Nunavut's main revenue and spending trends, including the modeling of various revenue sustainability options." As the minister is well aware, Nunavut is only one of a few provinces or territories in Canada that does not have a retail sales tax. Can the minister confirm whether or not the introduction of a territorial retail sales tax is on the table or off the table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. In a nutshell, nothing is off the table entirely. We have to continue to take a look at the analysis and what impacts a sales tax would have on Nunavummiut and our cost of living, which is already, if not the highest, one of the highest in the country. It's not off the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is well aware, approximately one-third of the government's total budget goes to compensation and benefits for employees. Can the minister confirm whether or not a hiring or wage freeze is on the table or off the table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In both my previous responses, I have been pretty clear that there's nothing that's off the table entirely, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to evaluate. This government has taken a number of steps with regard

to the number of person years and new positions that are created and there's an advanced level of scrutiny at the cabinet table whenever new positions are proposed to be created. We're going to continue those measures and if need be, we can and will look at additional measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1087 – 5(2): Conservation Officer for Qikiqtarjuaq

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we know and the minister knows that Qikiqtarjuaq has not had a conservation officer for approximately 20 years, which is a very long time not to have a conservation officer and it does create problems.

We have a person who fills the position at times, but I don't think he's fully qualified to do all the tasks that a conservation officer is required to do. Can the minister indicate when Qikiqtarjuaq will be getting a conservation officer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that yes, it has been quite a while, but we have a person working there and we do have a conservation officer who comes in from another community to fulfill the tasks of the conservation officer. We haven't had staff housing for quite some time and that was part of the problem, but we did acquire a staff house for the conservation officer. 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 clarification. We are very pleased and I'm sure that the listening audience in Qikiqtarjuaq is also very pleased. The minister indicated that staff housing has been acquired for the conservation officer. Is that housing readily available or do you have to bring it in and build it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The house is already there. It's already up and ready to be occupied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that this position will be filled by a conservation officer. Are we looking at filling this position this year or are we looking at the following year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The position is already being advertised. Anyone who is interested in the position can now apply. I believe the competition is open for another month. When the competition is closed, work will begin on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, followed by the Member for Netsilik. Member Rumbolt.

Question 1088 – 5(2): Pandemic Planning for Schools

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq. My questions today are for the Minister of Education.

As the minister is well aware, the Christmas season starts next month. In normal times, many teachers take the opportunity to travel and be with family during this period, and they normally return to the community in the new year for the resumption of classes. However, given the necessary travel restrictions and isolation requirements that have been implemented as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not clear what will happen this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is being reported by CBC News that teachers in the Northwest Territories have recently received instructions from the government concerning travel and isolation requirements during the upcoming Christmas period.

Can the minister clarify what travel, isolation and leave requirements will be put in place for Nunavut's teachers in respect to travel at Christmastime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Now that Halloween is out of the way, we're putting Christmas right in front of us now.

Mr. Speaker, we're aware of the situation in the NWT and at this time we are not entertaining any educators to work from isolation hubs that are currently in place. Mr. Speaker, Minister Hickes has been adamant that Nunavummiut avoid non-essential travel, especially outside of the territory, and we are of this position.

Mr. Speaker, this has been something that we want to maximize teacher and student face time in the classrooms as much as possible, given that the last school year ended abruptly. With that in mind, we're going on that path. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the way the pandemic is moving along in the south, it might be worth considering if you advise teachers to stay in the north for this Christmas.

Can the minister clarify what discussions have been held to date with the Nunavut Teachers Association concerning travel during the Christmas season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the regional school operations level the expectation has been put out to teachers that they follow the school calendars as per the district education authorities have set out for the school calendar. There are expectations that they report to work based on that schedule.

Mr. Speaker, in relation to the Nunavut Teachers Association, our department continues collaboration on different fronts, including on school calendars and how this pandemic is going. My staff at the department indicate that the teachers association has supported the government's position on avoiding non-essential travel outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the minister's department announced that it has "purchased 1,600 digital devices for Nunavut schools in the event of school closures due to an active case of COVID-19 in a community." Can the minister confirm if these devices have been delivered to all communities throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. At this time I can't confirm that they have been deployed to the communities. Mr. Speaker, the intention is that we have purchased 3,000 devices to date as planned and this includes 1,500 iPads as well as cases and 1,500 Chromebooks, as well as 3,000 Internet mobile devices. Mr. Speaker, the intention is that any community or school that is impacted

directly with COVID, these devices would be sent to those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1089 – 5(2): COVID-19 Pandemic Concerns

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. We have been making comments and asking questions about the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut are concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic which is affecting countries all across the globe. Currently the pandemic is affecting our southern counterparts in increasing levels. There is a concern that if the virus reaches Nunavut, it will affect our population even more dramatically than elsewhere.

I note that the Government of Nunavut’s most recent COVID-19 update, issued on November 2, repeats the guidelines for physical distancing, proper hygiene, and keeping groups or gatherings of people to a small number.

Can the minister clarify whether his department is planning any new or additional activities or guidelines to ensure that Nunavummiut will not experience the more drastic impacts of COVID-19 if it appears in our territory? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member’s question. There are people concerned all over. Mr. Speaker, one of the benefits of Nunavut’s Path that we’re working under with Dr. Patterson and his team at the Chief Public Health Office is that we’re not establishing timelines or putting goalposts, if you want to call it that.

We’re continuing to evaluate current circumstances as they occur. It is very alarming with our neighbouring jurisdictions and in having spikes. We want to make sure that Nunavummiut have some sense of normalcy, if it can even be called that, Mr. Speaker. We continue to evaluate the circumstances before we include any easements of restrictions or additional restrictions. They are analyzed weekly at the most and bi-weekly minimum to make any additions or subtractions to those measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that response. He touched on my second question, but I'll ask it for clarity.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are hearing of the second wave of the pandemic hitting populations globally. It seems this second wave will be much more serious than the first.

Can the minister elaborate on what specific procedures will immediately be put in place for Nunavummiut to follow if the second wave of COVID-19 reaches Nunavut?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I 100 percent agree with the member that we're very vulnerable, but we also have an opportunity with our geographic location on being able to restrict travel, being able to go through the very expensive measure of having isolation hubs in place to help keep Nunavummiut safe from having any wave come through the territory.

Mr. Speaker, we're continuously monitoring and testing any suspicious or any possible cases. We want to make sure that Nunavummiut can have, again, some sense of normalcy, but at the same time I can't enforce enough how important it is to maintain the small gathering groups, maintain the proper hygiene, maintain the social distancing, and even more importantly, again, as Minister Joanase just spoke to, of really taking a serious second thought on whether any travel outside of the territory is essential. 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 clarifying that issue. I want to ask my second question on the policies outlining the emergency situations, such as colour codes to denote seriousness. There are some colour codes used and I want to ask about the colour coding used today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, when a critical emergency situation affects a population, authorities often establish a rating system to indicate a level of risk. In some places they establish codes to indicate severity, for instance, green is the code for normal, yellow is the code for standby, orange is the code when an issue has been identified, and red is the code for when there is danger.

Mr. Speaker, if any of Canada's provinces or territories reach code red as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be a concern to everyone across the country. Can the minister clearly describe what plans are in place or what actions are being prepared for the possibility of a code red? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. I can give a real-life example that we're experiencing right now with our Kivalliq medical travel patients who are or were scheduled to travel to Manitoba, as an example. That jurisdiction is going through quite a dramatic spike right now.

Mr. Speaker, we had a whole team of doctors going through case by case by case by case. Just last weekend over a 150 cases were analyzed, each individual case on whether that medical travel was necessary, whether Winnipeg was able to take them, and in some cases rescheduled or temporarily cancelled, and yet other measures. We have to weigh the risk to not having access to that medical care at the same time, so some people are and will continue to travel as needed to make sure that their medical requirements are made. A real-life example is what we're going through right now. I believe there are another 180 cases that that team is going to be going through this coming weekend to determine the next week's medical needs on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me just a moment, when other jurisdictions have these code levels, we examine the risk on a specific group at a time. We don't want to put a code yellow or a code orange. We should all be adhering to the safety measures that are recommended by the health professionals. Some jurisdictions may deem a certain activity more "risky" than we would, so we may not put in strict measures as a code orange or code red, but other activities may be more risky, so we may put additional measures on that. We would deal with each specific example. Again, our path forward allows us that flexibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1090 – 5(2): Nursing Staffing in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, during our September sitting, I raised the issue of staffing at the Baker Lake Health Centre. At the time the minister was unable to provide specific details with respect to the staffing of positions at the Baker Lake Health Centre.

This issue has also been raised by the mayor and council of Baker Lake, and at the appropriate time I will be tabling a letter from the mayor of Baker Lake on this issue.

Can the minister confirm if he is aware that the Baker Lake Health Centre has frequently been reduced to providing emergency services only due to the lack of staffing resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have often risen in this House to talk about some of the challenges of recruiting health care professionals in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, under this day and age it's even more difficult to attract people to come and work in Nunavut, where it's difficult for them to get away from their jurisdiction or even just some of the requirements of isolation before coming into the territory. It's an unfortunate reality that the Baker Lake Health Centre is not alone in these circumstances and we're continuously working, especially in the nursing sector, with our nurse recruitment division to recruit nurses.

Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of Baker Lake. There are 30 positions in that health centre and right now just over half of them are filled indeterminately. We have 13 casual positions filling in some of those gaps, but the majority of those, like I had mentioned, are under casual staffing actions, which doesn't bring a sense of stability to the facility. We're continuing to work on efforts of recruitment and retention and we will continue to do so under these extreme circumstances. 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 his response. Mr. Speaker, as I have noted, there is an ongoing lack of nursing resources at the Baker Lake Health Centre. However, I also feel that, given the growth of the community in recent years, the number of staff positions at the Baker Lake Health Centre should be increased overall. In addition, there is a shortage of space to meet the needs of the growing population.

Will the minister commit to reviewing the staffing allocation and space needs at the Baker Lake Health Centre and take into consideration the rapid growth of the community's population and its expanding needs for local health care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we're continuously taking a look at staffing complements across the territory based on community growth obviously being one factor, the demand on the health centre, the amount of caseloads that they deal with. It goes into consideration for staffing levels. It's something that I would like to work towards of actually having a more established formula, but right now, again, a lot of our resources are tied up. There are a lot of people that would normally be working on efforts such as that that are dealing with COVID issues or the domino impact of other people working on COVID issues and their having to help supplement or fulfill other duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1091 – 5(2): Polar Bear Population Survey

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my constituents in Pond Inlet, my colleagues, and Nunavummiut.

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

Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister in the House a few days ago about Lancaster Sound and the McClintock Channel and Boothia Peninsula. They have populations identified as being the next zones to have population studies on polar bears. His response was to me was the survey will go ahead in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate when the study or the survey will begin? For example, will it occur in February, March, April, or May? With COVID-19, will this not hamper the survey? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the population surveys are planned, it is usually done in the spring, summer and fall seasons, but I’m aware that they will not start in the winter. I don’t know the exact date of the start date, but it would be in the springtime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his response to my question. Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister also indicated previously that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* would be incorporated into such population studies. How will IQ be used to ensure the study is continuing, and can he provide examples of how it would be used? Would it include representatives from the local hunters and trappers organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The wildlife experts, or (interpretation ends) biologists (interpretation) in English, generally consult with the hunters and trappers organizations as they sometimes include Inuit. However, when a helicopter is used, due to the limited space or weight restrictions, it causes issues. If they are going long distances, then they don’t follow. When they use a fixed-wing aircraft to conduct their population surveys, then they usually include Inuit observers.

However, the actual reporting occurs several months after the study where the hunters and trappers organization receives a report and presentation on their findings, and sometimes via a public meeting when they want their hunters to listen in. It usually involves couple of meetings to determine the quota as an example. This where the

hunters and trappers organization is consulted if the Minister of the Environment will be providing a report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response to my question. When the polar bear population survey for Lancaster Sound is completed in 2021 and, if it's not hampered by COVID-19, when will the survey results be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When dealing with wildlife populations such as polar bears, or caribou surveys, the work is done in conjunction with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. If it is a caribou or polar bear survey where we have to present a quota recommendation as the Department of Environment to the NWMB, then the number is not published under the report.

The recommendation is given to the board members of the NWMB to make a decision that they would review, and the NWMB can make a decision after speaking with the Inuit organizations. Sometimes they conduct wildlife hearings on specific populations. They generally listen to the public concerns when holding a public hearing.

Once the process is complete, the NWMB submits their decision to the Department of Environment on the numbers of caribou or polar bear tags. If I agree with the number they have provided me, then the quota would be in effect for polar bear or caribou harvests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1092 – 5(2): Enforcement of Court-ordered Restrictions on Alcohol

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to recognize my favourite Deputy Speaker or sorry, deputy mayor.

>>*Laughter*

I'm sorry; not you, Allan or Mr. Rumbolt.

I would like to recognize my favourite deputy mayor, the wonderful Janet Brewster, who has been joining us here as often as possible through the digital Visitors' Gallery. I would like to express my gratitude to our deputy mayor for all of her efforts, especially being a voice for the voiceless over the years.

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

Mr. Speaker, it appears that every serious court matter which ends with a conviction is most often accompanied with a court order to abstain from alcohol. Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that these convictions are accompanied with court orders and not interdictions.

Mr. Speaker, my first question for the Minister of Justice is: why has the Nunavut Court of Justice not utilized interdiction orders to date? 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. Unfortunately I don't have the information in front of me, but I can get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been raising this issue along with my other fellow members for quite some time, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that the minister does not have that information before her, but I would like to ask: has the minister herself asked why the Nunavut Court of Justice has yet to utilize interdiction orders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I thank the member for his question. The Department of Justice does not issue court orders; the duties are done through the Nunavut Court of Justice, the Nunavut Courts itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for essentially stating what I had said in my question. I asked why the Nunavut Court of Justice had not utilized interdictions.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon the Minister responsible for the Liquor and Cannabis Commission indicated that he had met with the Minister of Justice to discuss interdiction orders and how they can be applied to ensure that certain individuals refrain from the consumption of alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, my last question for the minister is: when exactly will the Nunavut Court of Justice be utilizing interdiction orders, and can the minister give us some examples of

when an interdiction order may be utilized and if that would include all violent offences that are alcohol related? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Under the court orders for the interdiction list for the liquor establishments, these interdiction lists cannot be used in the facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time... . Member Angnakak.

Motion 096 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member Hudson Bay, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and question period is extended for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, followed by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu. Member Main.

Question 1093 – 5(2): Court Interpreter Compensation

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to ask questions to the Minister of Justice regarding the need to have proper interpretation services when court is in session.

Mr. Speaker, this was a concern expressed previously, wherein a written question was submitted to the minister on whether or not they have access to the proper interpreters who provide interpretation to Nunavut Court Services. In reading her response, I seem to understand that this sometimes causes an obstacle, especially in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions, as they use non-government workers to provide the services, who are hired as (interpretation ends) private contractors (interpretation) who are contracted to provide court services.

My first question to the minister is: for the pay rate of the court interpreters when they hold court, is their income up to par with other interpreters, for example, such as here at the Legislative Assembly? Are they paid the same rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his questions. Court interpreters are very important to our travelling court circuits and here in Iqaluit, and having court interpreters is very difficult, especially in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq, as the member has stated.

Our court interpreters who do have indeterminate positions within the Department of Justice, our Court Services, they're paid at a rate at pay 15, which is very difficult to...they're at a pay range 15. When a person is hired, that's a starting salary, but most of our court interpreters are contracted and being a contracted court interpreter, because there is such a limited supply of court interpreters, I know Arctic College has run interpreter programs, but being a court interpreter is very specific because there are so many legal terminology that needs to be learned. When we do hire casuals or contract court interpreters, they have to learn a little bit about legal jargon and legal definitions when they are in court.

Being a contracted court worker, of course, you will make more money than you would if you were an indeterminate employee of the government. 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 is clear that the only way to properly understand the discussion requires professional interpretation and that is the only way a speaker in another language is understood.

During our sittings here in the House, we don't pay attention to whether the response is in English while I am asking questions in Inuktitut, and it is only by the linguistic abilities of our interpreters that we can debate issues using different languages.

In thinking of the court system, and what the minister just responded with, in my opinion, they require our most skilled interpreters, and if I properly understood her response, if the department searched for our best interpreters, they should also ensure the highest rates for the court interpreters. They would then know due to their professionalism that they are paid the appropriate rates for their skill sets.

Minister, are you able to say that the department is able to examine and review the important work of interpreters and the financial compensation levels are corresponding with the skill levels within your department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I thank the member for his question. The Department of Justice, under Court Services, we're always looking for ways to hire our court interpreters so they get the benefits they're entitled to, at the pay range that they're entitled to, and we're working very hard to ensure that if we have an individual we feel that the Court Services would

like to hire, a compensation package is always under discussion for these important people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The response to my final question on the written question I put in was in reference to interpreter positions, “These positions have been posted three times in the last three years with limited success,” and it makes reference to relying on contract interpreters.

With regard to trying to fill those full-time indeterminate positions, can the minister commit to looking at the pay, the benefits, and possibly even the location? Maybe consideration can be given to using a decentralized model where interpreters are staffed in other communities than where they currently are. Can the minister commit to looking at the indeterminate positions and how they can be filled? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1094 – 5(2): Corrections

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, they concern the issue of her department’s Corrections Division.

As the minister will recall, I asked her questions almost a year ago concerning the coming into force of Nunavut’s new *Corrections Act*, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly during its spring sitting of 2019, almost 17 months ago.

When I last raised this issue with the minister, she indicated that it might take up to two years to complete the preparatory work necessary for bringing the new legislation into force, including the appointment of the investigations officer, which is an independent position created under the new legislation. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. Currently under the *Corrections Act*, the

investigations officer, we have conducted initial evaluations, complete, we have completed the job description, we have received direction from Job Evaluations, we have an approved O&M budget for bill 2021-22, and we will begin the hiring process.

For the regulations, prepare drafting instructions for regulations; Legislation Division to begin drafting regulations will be done in November 2020; and submit regulations for cabinet approval will be done in the spring of 2021.

Directives and policies; begin preliminary discussions regarding updates to corrections directives and policies will be in the summer of 2021.

Inuit societal values, we will secure funding for the committee in the summer of 2021. Training will begin in the fall of 2021.

An independent adjudicator will conduct a needs assessment and look internally for available resources in the spring of 2021, and after that, an appointment will be made. 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 response. It was good to hear.

Mr. Speaker, during last week's consideration of the Department of Justice's proposed 2021-22 capital estimates, it was noted that the department plans to submit a "business case for new staffing requirements" in relation to our territory's corrections facilities. Can the minister clarify the status of this work and will she commit to sharing a copy of the business case with the Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the members know, the building of our new facility is underway and at this time the Department of Justice is already working towards what positions will be required within the new facility. Once the draft business case has been submitted to my office, I'll be glad to share it with the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: As the minister is aware, the Auditor General of Canada's next report to the Legislative Assembly will be on the subject of corrections, and I am looking forward to next year's televised committee hearing on the report.

Information published by the Office of the Auditor General indicates that:

“In 2015, we released a performance audit on corrections in Nunavut. This audit focused on whether the Nunavut Department of Justice was meeting its key responsibilities for inmates within the corrections system. The audit concluded that the Department of Justice did not adequately plan for and operate facilities to house inmates, and did not adequately manage inmates in compliance with key rehabilitation and reintegration requirements. A total of 17 recommendations were made, all of which were agreed to by the Department.”

Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made in addressing the recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Department of Justice has been working very hard on the recommendations made by the Auditor General and through the Auditor General’s report, we’re working to ensure that our new facility will be able to meet and adhere to all the recommendations that were made by the Auditor General.

Through our new facility we will be able to provide adequate housing, adequate counselling, and adequate space because the new facility will be able to have...well, unfortunately we will have more cells with less overcrowding within the cells itself, which currently for an individual to sit in a room with five other people in a small little cell is not healthy. With our new facility, I am happy to say I went on a tour on Saturday morning of the new facility and there are more cells and it will be able to take to two people per cell, and to me that’s more adequate, more health and safety rather than being in a cell with five other people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Prior to moving on to the next member, I want to express our appreciation to the Minister of Justice for providing a quick tour of the facility and this was quite interesting.

Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Question 1095 – 5(2): Solid Waste and Wastewater Management

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate your willingness to recognize me again as I have some questions. I was quite worried initially by the COVID-19 pandemic, but now I want to ask questions about the solid waste and wastewater management systems. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends). Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up today with the minister on issues related to solid waste and wastewater management.

As the minister will recall, his department issued a tender in April 2019 for upgrades and repairs to Kugaaruk's wastewater treatment infrastructure. During the recent September sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I was pleased to have had the opportunity to vote in favour of over \$1.3 million in funding for the project. Can the minister confirm the extent to which COVID-19 travel restrictions on contractors have impacted progress on this important project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking me this question, as I thought I would have no questions today.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, a myriad of impacts has been felt in a different grouping of projects that were supposed to have begun this year throughout our territory of Nunavut.

Further, all hamlets in Nunavut were involved in a meeting on more than one occasion where we held a teleconference on the COVID-19 pandemic as it first arrived into our country and during that teleconference, I asked all the hamlets if they had a preference to proceed with their projects or to delay them. I left it up to hamlet councils. If they weren't comfortable with having the construction workers come in, they were not going to be coming in. I am very pleased and I thank all hamlet councils that their preferences were to keep moving ahead, although they had concerns about the sickness.

Based on the understanding I have today, there was nothing that seriously delayed the project that our colleague was just asking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for providing that information, as concerns have been raised about workers arriving to the communities to work on those projects.

(interpretation ends) The department's tender package with the Kugaaruk wastewater treatment project indicates that the project has a 45 percent Inuit labour requirement, which means that almost half of the workers on the project should be residents of Kugaaruk. Can the minister confirm if this requirement is being met by the contractor? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question in the House. We usually start from 30 percent and in this particular it was 45 percent Inuit labour requirement and they're pleased and usually when I say the

minimum we would like to over that minimum requirement. I'm very pleased that today there is 54 percent Inuit labour content for this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his very good response. I like seeing that in our communities.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, his department issued a request for proposals in July 2018 for a solid waste management feasibility study for Taloyoak. During the recent September sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I was pleased to have had the opportunity to vote in favour of \$286,000 in capital carryover funding to complete the planning phase of this project prior to the end of the current 2020-21 fiscal year.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the final report from the planning phase is presented to both the Municipal Council of Taloyoak and me as the community's Member of the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I have stated on more than one occasion that the final reports will be made available to the members because I am always happy to provide those reports if they could be useful to their own communities. I'll make sure that all the information required is passed on to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1096 – 5(2): Sanirajak as a Regional Hub

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Minister of Transportation.

The minister is well aware that our airstrip was renovated last year with funding from the federal government. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: has the Department of Transportation had meetings with Transport Canada to see what would be further required to renovate the airstrip in Sanirajak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a requirement to make a report and a requirement to work with other entities. From what I understand and from what I hear, we have included all affected organizations and we are almost completing the renovation of the airport in Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister if they have made any plans. Maybe I'll rephrase my question. Has the Department of Economic Development and Transportation gone to Sanirajak to look at the location? We are centrally located close to the High Arctic and also close to the Kivalliq region. Would you consider making Sanirajak a regional hub because it's in close proximity to the other areas? Perhaps I'll ask it that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the member for asking a question related to that matter. With the 10-year plan, I have requested to look into the matter that you brought up and also the other ideas that were brought up by the other members where we would have a central location when it's of close proximity to the outlying communities. It's included in the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will we see that report? Would you be able to table it at the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly? When will we be able to see the report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is currently in the works and I have not set up a date yet, but I know that it's almost completed as our staff have been going back and forth to it.

For the 10-year plan, for the 20-year plan and also for infrastructure there are slight differences, for example, the ones that are requested by the staff and other requirements or needs required in regard to airport or air search. I don't feel comfortable right now to table it as there are some slight changes, but we will have to look at the financial aspects of it and do a thorough review. I have directed my staff on how it will be formatted and tabled to the Legislative Assembly. I will provide a better answer at the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1097 – 5(2): Kivalliq Intercommunity Road

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to also direct my questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation today, and the reason for rising to query him, Mr. Speaker, and further, I will also speak about the expectations.

I want to ensure this subject is heard about further, as last year was the first announcement about the Kivalliq intercommunity highway system called the (interpretation ends) the Kivalliq intercommunity road (interpretation) that would be funded last year to the tune of \$6 million, with funds from the federal government and some from the Nunavut government.

This was specifically for creating a feasibility study that would include the planning for the region and that was approved by the House. My first question, there was going to be four communities originally Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet and they have included another community.

Could the minister indicate which community that has now joined this road project?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community Government Services and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Baker Lake is now included in the intercommunity road and the previous member asked in the House to have Baker Lake included.

It does not affect the amount of money that has been set aside, but we have included one additional community and have almost arrived at an agreement with the federal government in regards to funding requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous Member for Baker Lake, I think I forgot his name.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories looking at those provinces and territories they have ice roads which they use only in the winter. My question to the minister: are we going to include winter roads or if we are going to be only looking at gravel roads? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community Government Services and Transportation, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the previous member called to state that he was listening to the proceedings and that he would pay attention, so perhaps he will be sending correspondence to you about that.

However, in looking at any kind of road system and especially one that interconnects these communities requires a comprehensive study, and it would include areas where we may need to incorporate ice roads and they have been included although I don't have the exact details at this time.

However, that is a very good question and I will look into that and further, once we complete the agreement, then we will be submitting further appropriation requests to look for road designs and project inspectors as there are still many details to flesh out. It is a good question so I will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister. That is unfortunate, as Simeon, I was just joking in this House, but I did not forget your name nor shall we forget you.

Mr. Speaker, my final question about (interpretation ends) the request for proposals (interpretation) that will be brought out by the Minister. When can we expect that plan to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit to a date right now, but I know it is being worked on. Our employees work hard on it and once the agreement is finished, the terms of reference will be worked on. They are being worked on already. All the things that have to accompany the agreement are being worked on, but I don't know when they will be completed and I don't know when it will be tabled in the House too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to inform my colleagues that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to No. 7. Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. No. 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) There are none. No. 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 311 – 5(2): 2019-2023 Human Resource Strategy**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the 2019-2023 *Human Resource Strategy*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 312 – 5(2): 2019 Environmental Rights Act Annual Report**Tabled Document 313 – 5(2): 2018-19 Climate Change Secretariat Activity Report****Tabled Document 314 – 5(2): Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund 2019-2020 Annual Report**

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the following documents:

- 2019 *Environmental Rights Act Annual Report*;
- 2018-19 *Climate Change Secretariat's Activity Report*; and
- Nature Reserve Conservation Trust Fund April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 Annual Report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Member for Baker Lake, Member Simailak.

Tabled Document 315 – 5(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Baker Lake Regarding Nursing Staffing

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have raised the issue of adequate staffing at the Baker Lake Community Health Centre on a number of occasions to date. The mayor and council of the Municipality of Baker Lake have also raised concerns and passed a resolution on this issue at their October 1 council session. Today I am tabling a copy of their letter to me on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and especially the Minister of Health to review this letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Members, I have five documents to table.

Tabled Document 316 – 5(2): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period January 1 to March 31, 2020

Tabled Document 317 – 5(2): Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the Period April 1 to September 30, 2020

Tabled Document 318 – 5(2): Interim Directive on the Members’ Travel and Child Care Entitlements Issued by the Management and Services Board

Tabled Document 319 – 5(2): Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Benefits and Expenses to the Members from the Period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

Tabled Document 320 – 5(2): 2021 Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

The first document is the Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period January 1 to March 31, 2020.

The second document is the Report of Members’ Absences from Sittings of the House and Meetings of Committees and Caucuses for the period April 1 to September 30, 2020.

The third document is the Interim Directive on the Members’ Travel and Child Care Entitlements Issued by the Management and Services Board, pursuant to subsection 40(3)(f).2 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

The fourth document is the Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Benefits and Expenses to the Members from the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Lastly, the fifth document is the 2021 Sitting Calendar for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Continuing on. Notices of Motions. No. 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 16. (interpretation) Motions. 17. First Reading of Bills. 18. Second Reading of Bills. 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 35, 37, and 51 with Mr. Rumbolt in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 86 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:42 and Committee resumed at 16:20

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

Chairman (Mr. Rumbolt): Good afternoon, members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order, please. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 35, 37, and 51. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence to clause by clause review of Bill 51, followed by the review of Bill 35 and, if time permits, Bill 37. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you. I'll ask members to go to Bill 51 in your legislative binders so that we can go clause by clause, please. We are dealing with Bill 51, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed? Go to schedule on page 2. Schedule. Minister Hickes.

Committee Motion 010 – 5(2): Bill 51, Clause 3

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Item 1 of the Schedule be amended by replacing “Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs” with “Office of the Legislative Assembly.” Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. The motion is in order and a copy of the motion has been distributed to all members. All those agreed. Opposed. The motion is carried. Again, Schedule. Page 2. Amount Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2022. Vote 2: Capital. Total Capital Appropriation. \$164,001,000, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 51 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 51, as amended, on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. That concludes Bill 51. Minister Hickes, do you have any closing comments you would like to do at this time?

Hon. George Hickes: Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman and members. I appreciate the diligence and the work that all the ministers have put into responding to the detailed questions that have been posed by the members and all the staff behind the scenes that goes putting this together other than the one misspelling error. I think, Mr. Speaker, the diligence that was provided to this bill should be applauded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes and thank you and all the other ministers who have sat in the witness table and answered questions over the past couple of weeks to members on this bill.

Bill 35 – Medical Profession Act – Consideration in Committee

With that, we will now move on to the next bill, which is Bill 37. Excuse me. Bill 35. My apologies and it's with the Department of Health. I'll start off with Minister Hickes. Do you have officials you would like to appear before the Committee?

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. They're just entering the Chamber now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Do members agree to let the officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Hickes, please introduce your officials and then continue into your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My introductions are part of my opening comments, so I'll go right into it.

Ullaakkut. Thank you for taking the time to consider the new *Medical Profession Act*.

I would like to introduce the officials here with me from the Department of Health and the Department of Justice:

- Ruby Brown, Deputy Minister of Health;
- Linnea Ingebrigtsen, Director of Policy and Planning, Department of Health;
- Mr. Steve Mansell, the Deputy Minister of Justice; and
- Thomas Ahlfors, Acting Director of Legislation, Department of Justice.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Barbara Harvey, Director of Professional Practice, Department of Health, for her work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Chairman and members, Nunavut's *Medical Profession Act* outlines the qualifications required to practise medicine in Nunavut. While the original legislative proposal indicated that the *Medical Profession Act* would be amended, Health, in consultation with the Department of Justice, has taken this opportunity to review the Act in its entirety. It was determined that a redraft was more appropriate, given the number of amendments required touching upon almost every part of the Act. It should be noted that matters not addressed in the original legislative proposal will be moved from the old Act to the new Act, with minor changes to the wording but not the intent.

Mr. Chairman and members, since the initial development of the *Medical Profession Act* in 1983, the only changes that have been made to the Act were consequential in nature to accommodate other legislation. The field of medicine and regulation of medical practitioners in Canada has experienced great change since 1983. In this regard, Nunavut has fallen behind other jurisdictions when it comes to meeting national standards. A new Act is needed to meet the changes that are occurring with the regulation of medical practitioners in Canada. As well, with the increasing use of telecommunications to provide health care, an appropriate framework for practice to accommodate medical professionals and better serve the territory is supported by these new provisions.

Mr. Chairman and members, this initiative is spurred in large part by a need to adapt to technological changes in the practice of medicine so that we can continue to serve our clients to the best of our abilities. We see this Act as *Pijitsirniq*, that is, serving and

providing for family or community, or both, and *Qanuqtuurniq*, being innovative and resourceful.

The initial legislative proposal referenced the creation of new licensing requirements for services being delivered through digital means or telecommunications. Mr. Chairman and members, the new Act will have consequential amendments to related Acts, the *Psychologists Act*, which will also allow for services like telepsychology. It was determined that medical practitioners, including psychologists, could either go through the process to secure full licensing for Nunavut, including telehealth, or go through established inter-jurisdictional agreements that address disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Chairman and members, the new Act will make it possible to:

- investigate and reprimand professional misconduct and to take action when there are concerns with a medical practitioner's ability to practise;
- ensure the department's ability to provide information for a complaints process that is initiated in another jurisdiction;
- provide a timely alternate mechanism to proceed with a complaint or dispute;
- keep Nunavut's requirements for registration as a medical practitioner relative to other jurisdictions in Canada;
- place restrictions or revoke licences during the investigative phase of a complaint, if warranted;
- compel witnesses for a complaint filed in Nunavut but investigated in another jurisdiction; and
- provide oversight of practitioners providing services through telecommunications.

Mr. Chairman and members, many of the provisions in the new Act already take place in other regulatory jurisdictions in Canada. The public will not be directly affected as the current Act already provides for licensure and oversight of practitioners. The new Act will ensure that clinical expertise continues to be available to Nunavummiut by recruiting physicians who meet the nationally accepted credentials, and that Nunavummiut are protected against incidents of improper conduct by practitioners.

Mr. Chairman and members, as the requirements of the *Medical Profession Act* are largely procedural or technical and primarily impact practitioners, the public will seldom interact with the Act's provisions. As such, the Department of Health does not anticipate any public opposition to the new Act.

The department consulted with the director of professional practice, the Medical Registration Committee, the territorial chief of staff, the territorial director of medical affairs, and the manager of telehealth on the proposed changes.

If passed, the new *Medical Profession Act* will not only ensure greater representation of Nunavut residents on the Medical Registration Committee; it will also streamline the process for practitioners to be registered during a state of emergency. The new Act will

also put in place a more robust review process, providing more opportunities to investigate and correct misconduct before cases are escalated to a board of inquiry.

Mr. Chairman and members, the new Act also outlines provisions for the methods of applying for a research permit, reviewed and issued by the Medical Registration Committee. While this process is separate from that conducted by the Health Research Committee, where appropriate and permitted, these committees will share information and address any issues arising from research practices and applications.

Mr. Chairman and members, I am very happy to see that a new *Medical Profession Act* is being considered today, and I welcome any questions on it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 35, the (interpretation ends) *Medical Profession Act*.

The standing committee is in support of the principle and objectives of the bill, which the sponsoring minister outlined in his opening comments.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 35 will modernize the licensing and regulation of medical practitioners in Nunavut, including the delivery of medical services through digital means and telecommunications, systems upon which we are becoming increasingly reliant. Bill 35 also proposes a more thorough and comprehensive process for addressing complaints or disputes than what currently exists. I note that amendments have been made to clarify the complaints process.

(interpretation) The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 35 to all members, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I will now open up the floor if there are any general comments on the bill. Seeing none, I'll ask members to please go to Bill 35 in your legislative binders and it should be under tab 35. I will remind members that if you have a question on a certain clause in the bill, please interrupt me as we're going clause by clause and I'll allow you to ask questions or comment on particular line items.

We have Bill 35, *Medical Profession Act*. Clause 1. Agreed? No, sorry. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Just finding my clause 1(2). It says in the Act that there are certain areas that do not fall under this Act, but I'm wondering if the minister can tell us where they fall, 2(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ahlfors would probably be best suited to respond to that question, please, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors.

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (c) and (d), veterinary surgery and veterinary medicine, those are covered off by the *Veterinary Profession Act*.

(a) and (b), homeopathy and osteopathy, are not currently regulated in Nunavut, but this will allow people to practise those fields without being licensed under this Act. It is quite the norm across the country that those would not be licensed under a *Medical Profession Act*.

As for (e), an activity prescribed by regulation, well, that would be on a case-by-case added to regulations if there are additional activities and so that would really depend on what activity is being added to the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak, you're good? Okay. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Clause 3 (2) it says public access the registrars are permit any person who provides reasonable notice to inspect the registers referred to in subsection 1 and I just want to know what you mean by any person. Can anybody from the public just decide "I want to look at registrar"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Clause 4 (6), so this talks about forward an applications and I wondering under oh I guess my first question is what is the process currently when addressing disciplinary measures. What is the process right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would depend upon the circumstances. It would be everything from reporting if it was a physician the College of Physicians or even up to criminal court proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'm sorry didn't understand his answer. Can I have the Minister please repeat his answer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Clarification, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the current Act it has a board of inquiry. Any complaints would be brought forward to that board and is all levels of complaints involved in there, from a minor complaint to a service provision up to potentially criminal activity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'd just like to know if the Minister is going to tell us the number of times some of these incidences that are laid out (a) to (h). Let me pick number (c) disciplinary proceedings against the applicant in any jurisdiction that resulted in finding of an improper conduct. How many times has this happen here in Nunavut over the last let's say couple years, five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a breakdown of what the complaints were, but in the last 16 years there have been 12 complaints brought forward against 13 physicians. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'll try and slow down. As usual I go rushing. In regards to disciplinary actions and if it goes all the way up to a court proceeding which I don't know if it has here in Nunavut. Have there been situations where the GN has had to pay out if the court has sided maybe on the doctor's side or one of the professions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of any. No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Under registration fraud (1) I was wondering if the minister can tell us if they've have found any instances where people have fake qualifications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No not to our knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is under 9(1). It's talking about application for research permit, and I want to know if the minister can tell us how these permits, when somebody wants to go and do a study or something, how the rules that are listed here will be enforced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Ahlfors might be best suited to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors.

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 9(1) sort of provides for what has to be included in the application and of course, if an application does not include those matters, it would be refused. As far as someone doing research without a permit, so they just simply

haven't applied for a research permit but are doing research, then they would be committing an offence under the Act and could potentially be prosecuted and also that would be disciplinary, so they could also be taken to a board of inquiry or other kinds of disciplinary proceedings. There are various methods of dealing with an issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qamaniq, please move over to the table. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the research applications go to the Nunavut Research Institute? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would depend on the nature of the research being requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. Just to follow up on my colleague's question, when wouldn't it go through the research institute? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In circumstances where it's specific to medical profession research, probably Mr. Ahlfors would probably be able to give a better legal description, but that being said, the conditions of applying for research under the Nunavut Research Institute also apply to this Act as well too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors.

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, this specific application would typically not go to the Nunavut Research Institute; it would go to the Medical Registration Committee. However, most applicants would have to have a separate application for a research permit under the *Scientist Act* that would go to the Nunavut Research Institute. In order to do research, you would have to have both permits if that's required under the Act.

I don't have a copy of the *Scientist Act* in front of me. If there are any sorts of exceptions to when someone would not require a permit under that Act to do research, it would really be governed by the *Scientist Act* and if the *Scientist Act* requires that permit, then one would have to have one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us: will there be any stipulations that if there is research being done... ? I understand due to confidentiality, there is some information that can't go back to the community, but there might be some information that would be useful for the community to know or it would be useful information for the Department of Health, for example, to know. Will there be any stipulations, if you're going to go and do this research in the community, the stipulation that you have to come back and share your information or is it just "I'm going to go do research and just keep that information to myself"? How will you be handling that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. I want to remind members and officials to please speak a little slower. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be dealt with during the application process. So on the nature of the research of being done and it would be decided at that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Just if the Minister can state who would be deciding and with who would they be consulting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Both the committees, the Research Committee and the Medical Registration Committee share information. So if there is information that would be valuable to Nunavut, then they would have an opportunity to make that a condition of the application process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. You caught my attention when you said it would be valuable to Nunavut, I would think that all research done in Nunavut would be valuable to Nunavut. So I am wondering how you would make that distinction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not make that distinction, the Medical Profession Committee and Medical Research Committee make that distinction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this process will the Health Committee of Council be involved? Thank you.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I do not think I understood the question properly. Can the Member repeat it or rephrase it? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Mr. Qamaniq if you could clarify your question please. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am...correct me if I am wrong, I think there is a clause there that refers to Health Committee of Council? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes they would provide oversight on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We are only on Clause 9, don't fall asleep yet, we have a lot of clause's to go. Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: So 15(2), this is under Emergency Register and I am just going wondering if the Minister could tell us how many people that have register...their registrars, I do not know how or what the correct terminology is, but how many had been rejected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have a number that were rejected. I've got, there are currently 527 current licensed physicians of which 517 that are an annual license, 9 of which are 1 year license, 1 physician with a 3 month license, and two medical research permits.

I would not...it would not come to me if were rejected. I only come to sign off on authorization under the current legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19, Agreed? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering how the department goes about when somebody want... it is under discipline and fitness to practice. Sometimes, you know a lot of times, well, I guess, almost all the time our doctors either come in from the south, other jurisdictions. So, if something happened to a doctor where he was disciplined or she was disciplined or whatever happened and then they come and apply for a job here, how do you monitor that? What's your...you must have a policy in place in working with other jurisdictions? If you can just tell us a bit about how you go about making sure that you're aware before you hire somebody that what's going on in their past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all there would be a duty to disclose that on their application form and if at such time it was discovered that there was a restriction on their practice and they failed to disclose they're jeopardizing their career and their livelihood.

But just for the sake of clarity, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Brown would probably be able to respond more detailed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister Hickes mentioned that the first step in this is the self-declaration of the individual. It's mandatory that they have to come forward and reveal if there is any investigation or past disciplinary action or any criminal convictions.

As well, along with that, there is a certificate of professional conduct that's received directly from the professional colleges where the individual has been licensed in the last twenty years, so all places where the individual worked for the last twenty years have to confirm that there is no issue.

Along with that, there's also regulatory colleges will forward any information upon request as it becomes available. So, if there are any breaches along the way, they have an obligation to report to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. In clause 21 it talks about a review officer and it says here the minister should appoint a medical practitioner to be that and I'm wondering if there might be a conflict between the review officer and his or her colleagues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand it, Mr. Ahlfors could probably clarify in detail but the way I understand it, if there is a relationship or a conflict with somebody under investigation there are alternate measures to be able to investigate that accusation but Mr. Ahlfors could probably supplement better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. Clause 21 (2) allows the appointment of a special review officer so in case that there is a conflict between the review officer and the medical practitioner who's subject to a complaint a special review officer can be appointed to take over that role and avoid that conflict. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Just a minute. Mr. Qamaniq, if you could please move over to the table. Mr. Qamaniq.

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 30(B2) it goes on to say that, “Order that the medical practitioner or registered student pay a fine not exceeding \$50,000.” Under page 29 under section 37(4)(b) it goes on to say that if the appeal is not granted, it has to be deposited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. My question under clause 30 is: where would this \$50,000 go to? Which account? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately it doesn’t go into my pocket, but Mr. Ahlfors would be able to direct where the fines would be allocated to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In accordance with the *Interpretation Act*, it would be deposited in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 55. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 35 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 35 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments, Minister Hickey?

Hon. George Hickey: Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman. Again, I have said it before when these pieces of legislation come forward, we look at...there are like 40 pages of

information in there. It may not seem like a lot, but there's a lot of work that goes into it and I would like to commend Mr. Ahlfors and his team and the officials who have helped develop this legislation from the Department of Health. People sometimes question how I keep all the information in my head sometimes and Mr. Ahlfors and Ms. Brown, it blows my mind how much information they have the capacity for in their grey matter, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to thank the members for their diligence on this. There were some amendments throughout the committee process that were made and it just shows the diligence of the members and the ability to work with legislation on making sure that it's benefiting Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Hickes. On behalf of the committee, I thank you and your staff for the amount of work that has gone into this bill.

With that, we will now move on to another bill, but Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out, and we will move on to Bill 37.

Bill 37 – Legislation Act – Consideration in Committee

We're moving on to Bill 37 and I will ask Minister Ehaloak: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree for the witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For the record, Minister Ehaloak, please introduce your officials and then proceed into your opening comments. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My officials today are Steve Mansell, who is Deputy Minister of Justice, and on my left and to my right is Thomas Ahlfors, who is the Acting Director of the Legislative Division with the Department of Justice.

Mr. Chairman, I am here to discuss Bill 37, the proposed *Legislation Act*.

Several statutes currently deal with various technical aspects of legislation. This includes how legislation is made, revised, consolidated, published, and interpreted. These include the *Statute Revision Act*, the *Interpretation Act*, the *Statutory Instruments Act*, and the *Public Printing Act*. These statutes were copied from the Northwest Territories upon division in 1999 and are out of date. This bill repeals these existing statutes and replaces them with a modernized approach to legislation in our territory.

I am pleased to highlight that this bill provides for legal authority to reference the *Nunavut Agreement* as opposed to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* in our legislation. It should be noted that this bill supports the authority of the Legislative Assembly and provides more oversight on government regulations.

One important element of Bill 37 is that it requires statements to be prepared for most bills introduced into the Legislative Assembly. These statements are required to set out the impacts of the legislation on rights and freedoms, including the rights of Inuit under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

This bill will also require the preparation of statements for both bills and regulations, describing how Inuit societal values are integrated into the legislation. This inclusion will provide more transparency into the integration of Inuit societal values within our legislation and inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut on steps we can take to ensure these considerations have been made.

The bill also allows for the ongoing consolidation and revision of Nunavut's legislation. Additionally, it allows for the electronic publication of legislation on our website and makes the electronic version of the Nunavut legislation website the official version. These changes will ensure that Nunavut's legislation is up to date and accessible to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would be pleased to take any questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 37, the proposed new *Legislation Act*.

(interpretation ends) The standing committee is in support of the overall purpose of the bill, which the minister described in her opening comments.

Over the past year the standing committee has been engaged in a productive dialogue with the sponsoring minister concerning the bill.

A total of ten amendments to the bill were adopted on the occasion of the standing committee's recent clause-by-clause consideration of the proposed new statute. These amendments resulted in a number of improvements to the bill, including a requirement for the government to develop a formal policy concerning the drafting of the new Inuit societal values statements that will be required under subsection 46(2) of the new statute.

As the House is aware, there have been long-standing concerns regarding the extent to which Inuit societal values are being successfully integrated into legislation, and the

standing committee looks forward to the policy clearly defining the specific knowledge, qualifications, and skills that will be required in this area.

I also wish to note with appreciation the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly's interventions in respect to matters concerning parliamentary privilege and the jurisdiction of the Management and Services Board. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. Are there any general comments? If not, I'll ask members to please go to your legislative binders for Bill 37. It's on tab 37. Bill 37, *Legislation Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. See Schedule on page 85. Schedule. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My apologies; I'm just waiting for clause 54, which I will have questions on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Agreed? Clause 46. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. This is the clause which references these statements, which would be a new part of the legislative process. There will be three statements accompanying every bill. That is how I interpret this. There will be a statement that sets out potential effects of the Bill on Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, potential effects of the Bill on the Rights that are guaranteed to Nunavut Inuit under Nunavut Agreement, and the third one being Inuit societal values statements.

My first question is to the minister: where will these statements...? Obviously they will be here in the Assembly, but will they be published alongside pieces of legislation that go onto Legislative Assembly's website or would they be considered to be separate from the bill itself in terms of publication? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Act will require statements to be prepared concerning Inuit societal values are integrated into legislation. This does not apply to regulations prepared on behalf of the Management Services Board. At this time, specific qualifications for persons who will pairing the Inuit Societal Statements have not been established. There are no specific intent to restrict their drafting to a single department. The ultimate responsibility for the Inuit societal values statements will be the responsible Minister. The Department of Justice is working to establish a policy on the development of Inuit societal value statements including the qualifications of persons who can draft or review them. This policy would have to be tabled into the Legislative Assembly. The work to develop the policy includes discussions with our colleagues in the Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit Division of the Department of Culture and Heritage.

It is current practice for the IQ division to review references to Inuit societal values in government documents. It is anticipated the IQ division could aide with Inuit societal

values statements or with the development of qualifications to be considered when retaining someone to draft the statements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends): So, my question on these statements, these three statements is will they be published alongside like will they be part of the Bill when say a person in the public is looking up a piece of Legislation on Assembly website. Will the statements be right in there as part of the same document or will they be separate? And, will they be public. (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Mansell to answer his question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors.

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Chair. Clause 46 with respect to the method of bringing it to the House and you know where exactly where it will be for example on the Assembly's website has been left vague in the bill in order ensure that the Legislative Assembly can control it's procedure properly and so, it would be up to the Legislative Assembly perhaps through its rules to determine how the Legislative Assembly would like these statements to be provided and published.

Whether that be as part of the bill document, whether that be separately, I think we would be looking for guidance from the Legislative Assembly on that. Until such guidance is provided, we would have to figure out what might be the best way to do it and that might vary depending on the size of the statement.

Just one final clarification, it's expected that there would be two statements, one under 46(1) that would include both the charter and the *Nunavut Agreement* matters and then a second statement on Inuit societal values integration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Ahlfors. (interpretation ends) Thank you for clarifying that. It's just two statements we would be looking at. The reason I asked about publication is it says here on page 25, subclause 3, that the purpose of the statements is to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly as well as the public, and so that's why I was asking about the public's involvement.

We've had discussion about this subject at the committee level in terms of how a government is supposed to do this, and I would encourage my colleagues to share their thoughts on it if they choose, but in terms of the big question, whose job is it to ensure

that legislation incorporates Inuit societal values? Is it the drafters? Is it the minister? Is it the staff who work alongside the drafters or is it the regular MLAs who sit there and review pieces of legislation? It's important and to try to understand how to best do this.

My question for the minister is: are there any other examples if we look internationally, countries with large indigenous populations, let's say New Zealand... I'll use New Zealand for example. Are there any best practices or examples of how to incorporate indigenous worldview and knowledge into what is really something based on Western best practices? I'll leave it like that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person responsible to ensure that the Inuit societal values would be included in the piece of legislation would be the minister responsible for writing that legislation. As an example, if it was for the Department of Economic Development and [Transportation], it would be the minister for that department.

As to whether or not other indigenous groups, how they incorporate their societal values, I mean, we can look into that, but that was not looked at during the writing of this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) With these statements which will be put forward alongside a bill and once you're at the point where you can prepare these statements, is it envisioned that these statements would be open for debate in the House? If a piece of legislation is brought forward, we can debate it. Would they be open for debate among the members in terms of "This bill does not meet Inuit societal values and here's why" and the department or sponsoring minister, I would anticipate, would say, "Yes, it does," and if we start to have those types of differences of opinions? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Mr. Main's question, yes, definitely, I think that they should be debated and they should be questioned. There are a lot of people in this room who have knowledge and the expertise on our culture itself, our Inuit societal values. I think, in the early debate when a department presents to the committee, it should be debated and it should be questioned so that our Inuit societal values are always included in any piece of legislation. I agree with the member that they should be debated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I am getting into hypothetical territory, but I am trying to understand so in the event that there is debate on an Inuit societal values statement in the House and there is disagreement on whether a piece of legislation meets Inuit societal values or not. I guess it is too hypothetical of a question to ask like would it...would those specific statements and decisions whether or not a bill meets Inuit societal values, would that be, I guess I just answered my own question. It could lead to decisions to vote down pieces of legislation if it decided that they do not meet Inuit societal values and so I guess I should ask the Minister an easier question, I am just talking to myself.

What is the timeline for seeing these statements alongside bills, I guess in the next government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I think you are talking to thousands of people right now. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank the Member for his question. I agree if the members in this House through, I am pretty sure through collaboration with your elders, with your experts in you communities who know our Inuit societal values state to you that they do not agree with what is being presented in the bill, of course it should be debate and when it comes to when will the state...when they....when will the Inuit societal values statement policy being completed? We will begin, the Department of Justice is working internally on the Inuit societal values policy upon passage of this bill.

Our intention is to have a draft policy for review and comments to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for comment before the end of this assembly so we are ready to proceed with issuing these statements in the next government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the department is going to look into other indigenous people can the Minister commit to include the Greenland government? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, yes we can look into the Greenlandic and how they include their Inuit societal values in the pieces of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add onto your response to Mr. Main's question about how you are going to ensure Inuit societal values is incorporated into the legislation. Looking forward ahead, what if the sponsoring minister is not an Inuk and

does not know *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* or the Inuit societal values, what is going to happen then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When including Inuit societal values in any piece of legislation, the Department of Culture and Heritage is involved in the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Agreed? Sorry. Clause 49, Mr. Main, or clause 50? Clause 50. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister can explain how regulations will be treated or handled differently under this piece of legislation compared to how they are handled now in terms of oversight or review by Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through you I'll ask Mr. Ahlfors to answer his question. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Mr. Ahlfors.

Mr. Ahlfors: Thank you, Chair. So at the present time there really is no provision in law with respect to the Legislative Assembly or one of its committees examining regulations. And of course any committee of the Legislative Assembly is free to examine the legislation and regulation and you know pass a resolution to that effect.

But it wouldn't at this time be binding on you know having to do something about it unless an actual bill is introduced and passed.

What the Legislation Act would do in clause 61 is effectively refer every regulation or almost every regulation that has been made by the government to a committee of the Legislative Assembly which can choose to or choose to not review that regulation at any time it can do it immediately or it can do it five years down the line to verify whether it's legally made under the authority that the Legislative Assembly has given to the government to make regulations and whether or not the government followed the proper legal procedure to make it presentable.

For example, if there is a recommendation that's necessary and there was no such recommendation well then the government did not follow the proper procedure. Then this committee could report that back to the House and if the House makes a vote to disallow that piece of regulation then the government would have an obligation to repeal the reported regulation within three months and would of course have the option of replacing it with something else that would work.

But that would be the system and this is similar to what Parliament has as a review mechanism at this time. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think this is a good change, a positive change. I recall when we approved the Cannabis Act a few years ago and it was striking in that so many of the questions were to be answered in the regulations, to be answered in the regulations.

I think that was around timeline to get that bill passed. But if the saying is the devil's in the details then the regulations are where the details are. So I look forward to seeing greater oversight in regulations. No further questions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Main. We will move on. Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 55, agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 56. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 57. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 58. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 59. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 60. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 61. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 62. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 63. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 64. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 65. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 66. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 67. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 68. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 69. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 70. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 71. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 72. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 73. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 74. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the *Nunavut Gazette*, does the Department of Justice look into how much the gazette is read? How many Nunavummiut read the gazette? Is it monthly? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. It's kind of hard to track; the department doesn't do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Clause 74. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 75. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 76. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 77. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 78. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We're halfway there. Clause 79. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 80. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 81. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 82. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 83. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 84. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 85. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 86. Agreed? Two people agreed? How many agree? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: 87. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 88. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 89. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 90. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 91. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 92. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 93. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 94. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 95. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 96. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 97. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 98. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 99. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 100. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 101. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 102. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 103. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 104. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 105. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 106. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 107. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 108. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 109. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 110. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 111. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 112. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 113. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 114. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 115. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 116. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 117. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 118. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 119. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 120. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 121. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 122. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 123. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 124. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 125. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 126. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 127. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 128. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 129. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 130. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 131. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 132. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 133. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 134. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 135. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 136. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 137. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 138. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 139. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 140. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 141. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 142. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 143. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 144. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The actual written wording, does it speak about a seal or not? Can the minister clarify that for my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Chairperson: Thank you. I'll ask Mr. Main if he'll repeat his question please. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if someone was watching, I wanted to understand "great seal of Nunavut" that is mentioned. I don't think it is talking about an actual seal? Can the minister clarify that please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. It's not an actual animal, a seal. It's a seal. The seal is an actual stamp. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We had some fun in committee with that one. This is a serious question though. Who is allowed to use the great seal of Nunavut? Not just anybody can get a great seal and pick it up and start stamping things. It's for special purposes. (interpretation) If the minister can clarify that, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I'll have Mr. Ahlfors answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ahlfors.

Mr. Ahlfors: So, it's the commissioner of Nunavut who has the authority to use the great seal and can also authorize other persons to use it on the commissioner's behalf.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 144. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 145. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 146. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 147. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 148. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 149. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 150. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 151. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 152. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 153. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 154. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 155. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 156. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 37?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 37 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak, any closing comments? Please go ahead.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I'd like to thank the Department of Justice in the legislative division for all the hard work they've done today and all the members during appearance for all your questions and I look forward to working further on other pieces of legislation and the Department of Justice will ensure that Inuit societal values are included at the very beginning of writing a piece of legislation and I'm delighted and happy that this bill will pass as it's completed in the manner that benefits all of Nunavummiut in our pieces of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you and your staff for the amount of work that has also gone into this bill and it's much appreciated.

With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akoak. There's a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. Continuing on. No. 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 35, 37, and 51 and would like to report that Bills 35, 37, and 51 are concluded and are ready for third reading and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

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

No. 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickee.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**Bill 51 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022 – Third Reading**

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 51, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2021-2022*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, as amended, and Bill 51 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Minister Hickee.

Bill 35 – Medical Profession Act – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 35, *Medical Profession Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 35 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Minister Ehaloak.

Bill 37 – Legislation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 37, *Legislation Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour. Opposed. (interpretation ends) The motion is carried and Bill 37 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. (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 9 a.m. in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 4:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 25

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) The House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:47*

