

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation; Minister
of Human Resources*

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(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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responsible for Suicide Prevention*

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(Hudson Bay)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment;
Minister responsible for Immigration;
Minister responsible for Indigenous
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
Utility Rates Review Council*

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Community and Government
Services; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Nunavut Housing
Corporation*

Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Hon. George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Justice;
Minister responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

*Government House Leader; Minister
of Family Services; Minister
responsible for Homelessness; Minister
responsible for the Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Education; Minister responsible
for Nunavut Arctic College*

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements	1
Members' Statements	6
Oral Questions.....	13
Tabling of Documents	30
Motions.....	31
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	32
Report of the Committee of the Whole	62
Orders of the Day	62

A.

Daily References

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

559 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit (Nakashuk) 1

560 – 5(2): Conservation Officer Response to COVID-19 (Savikataaq) 2

561 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Graduation Ceremonies (Joanasie) 3

562 – 5(2): Umingmak Centre and the Department of Family Services (Sheutiapik) 4

563 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Arctic Bay Power Plant Project (Ehaloak)..... 5

564 – 5(2): Housing Project Collaboration (Nakashuk) 6

C.

Members' Statements

810 – 5(2): Income Tax Returns and COVID-19 Benefits (Main)..... 6

811 – 5(2): The Impacts of Racism (Towtongie) 7

812 – 5(2): Policing Services in Nunavut (Qamaniq) 8

813 – 5(2): Baker Lake Residents Helping Arviat Residents (Simailak) 10

814 – 5(2): Social Issues in Our Schools (Pedersen)..... 10

815 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccinations in the High Arctic (Akeeagok)..... 11

816 – 5(2): Institutional Racism in the Health Care System (Netser) 12

D.

Oral Questions

1181 – 5(2): Policing Services in Nunavut (Qamaniq) 13

1182 – 5(2): Impacts of Racism (Towtongie) 15

1183 – 5(2): New School for Taloyoak (Qirngnuq) 18

1184 – 5(2): Options for Respite Housing (Akoak)	20
1185 – 5(2): Resources to Address Social Issues in Our Schools (Pedersen)	22
1186 – 5(2): Income Assistance Recipients Receiving CERB Payments (Main)	24
1187 – 5(2): Supports for Social Workers (Angnakak).....	25
1188 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure for Sanirajak (Kaernerker).....	28

E.

Tabling of Documents

352 – 5(2): Toronto Star Article: Inuit Midwives say they left after experiencing years of mistreatment (Towtongie).....	30
353 – 5(2): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council 2019-2020 Annual Report (Sheutiapik) .	30
354 – 5(2): Sport and Recreation Division 2019-2020 Annual Report (Ehaloak)	31
355 – 5(2): Petroleum Products Division 2017-2018 Annual Report (Ehaloak).....	31

F.

Motions

106 – 5(2): Legislative Assembly Appointment (Lightstone).....	31
--	----

G.

Bills

Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee	32
Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Education – Consideration in Committee	56

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak, Hon. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. John Main, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Mr. David Qamaniq, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik, Mr. Craig Simailak, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, Nunavummiut. I once again welcome those who are following the proceedings as we begin our work.

Before we proceed to the orders of the day, I again welcome the three students from Nunavut Arctic College. They are here as part of the Interpreter/Translator Program. Two of them were here yesterday, who are behind Minister Ehaloak, and the third one today is on my right. Please welcome them.

>>*Applause*

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Minister of (interpretation ends) Culture and Heritage, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 559 – 5(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day also to the people of Pangnirtung. I say “good day” to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that nine members were recently appointed to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. The Katimajit is made up of elders selected for their knowledge of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values. The nine members represent Nunavut geographically and linguistically.

Mr. Speaker, this committee provides advice and assistance to the Government of Nunavut, thereby fulfilling the Inuunivut priority of the *Turaaqtavut* mandate, which

ensures government policies, programs, services, and legislation are more effective and relevant through *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values. Departments can call on the Katimajit at any time to seek advice about their departmental *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and Inuit societal values initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming the following people to the sixth Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit: Mary Voisey of Whale Cove, Marie Anguti of Kugaaruk, Jean Simailak of Baker Lake, Ootoovak Audlakiak of Clyde River, Lew Philip of Iqaluit, Abraham Oolalak of Sanirajak, Willie Nakoolak of Coral Harbour, Miriam Aglukkaq of Gjoa Haven, and Celine Ningark of Kugaaruk.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of the previous Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit members who concluded their terms in March 2020: Kigutikakjuk Shappa of Arctic Bay, Zeke Ejetsiak of Kinngait, Annie Tookalook of Sanikiluaq, Mary Voisey of Whale Cove, Annie Napayok of Whale Cove, Jean Simailak of Baker Lake, Marie Anguti of Kugaaruk, Makabe Nartuk of Kugaaruk, and Simon Qingnaqtuq of Taloyoak.

I would like to thank all participants for sharing their time and knowledge and for the significant roles they continue to play within their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 560 – 5(2): Conservation Officer Response to COVID-19

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate the Department of Environment's commitment to the delivery of its programs to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, our team of dedicated conservation officers have continued to provide services to their posted communities.

Mr. Speaker, that includes putting more than \$100,000 directly into the hands of harvesters. We support our harvesters by purchasing their furs and sealskins to be sold at Fur Harvesters Auction in Ontario and to Splendor Fur Processing in Quebec. We support our harvesters by paying for the shipping cost of raw fur to private buyers. We also pay harvesters for samples they submit to us, which in turn helps our Wildlife Research Division gather more data on our wildlife populations. We also expanded our wolf sample collection program into the Northwest Territories, where the Inuit Traditional Use Area overlaps with Northwest Territories' wolf management area.

We have distributed more than \$85,000 in funds through our wildlife damage prevention, wildlife damage compensation, and disaster compensation programs. These programs provide Nunavummiut with resources to reduce damage caused by wildlife, to protect their personal property from wildlife, and to repair or replace items lost or damaged due to natural disasters. This includes ways to purchase electric fencing, non-lethal bear deterrents, bear resistant meat storage units and cabin reinforcements.

The department continued to respond to human-wildlife conflict during our lockdowns. Staff responded to many calls of polar bears and foxes coming into towns across the territory, and the public has shown great support and cooperation with our staff on these callouts.

Mr. Speaker, our conservation officers, wildlife monitors, and all Department of Environment staff will continue to serve their communities throughout the pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 561 – 5(2): Nunavut Arctic College Graduation Ceremonies

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, MLAs and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, while the COVID-19 pandemic greatly altered the college's plans for graduation for the last academic year, I am happy to announce that several of Nunavut Arctic College's facilities have hosted ceremonies. Staff at the campuses and community learning centres have been tasked to find creative ways to honour and celebrate the grads and their achievements, but in ways that respected the social distancing requirements being experienced across the territory and in communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am happy to confirm graduation has occurred in the following communities:

- On December 16 graduation ceremonies were held in Cambridge Bay.
- On January 15 Sanikiluaq held a ceremony for a graduate in the Adult Basic Education program.
- On February 3 a graduation ceremony was held in Pond Inlet to recognize the graduates in that community, including the environmental technology graduates. I was happy to join them and so I would like to recognize and mention the hon. member for Mittimatalik, David Qamaniq, who was able to join us in Pond Inlet at this event.

- Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit also held a graduation ceremony on February 5 for graduates of several programs, including college foundations, interpreter/translator, early childhood education, nursing, and other programs. I thank the Premier for joining us for that ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to these dates, I would also like to recognize Keith Ovilok. Members, Keith received a record of achievement for his participation in the Getting Ready for Employment and Training program, or the G.R.E.A.T. program. As part of this program, Keith was assigned a placement with the Hamlet of Kugluktuk and completed it. I am happy to report that he was then hired by the Hamlet of Kugluktuk. On December 18, 2020 Keith took a quick break from his full-time job to go to the community learning centre, received his certification, and then continued on to his work that day. Congratulations!

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker and members, there are still community learning centres and campuses working to organize their graduations. I would like to recognize everyone for their hard work and perseverance. I would like to also recognize the Nunavut Arctic College Student Services Division who has provided key support to the communities and campuses for graduation; the adult educators in the community learning centres, and all program heads across the territory for their commitment to ensuring their students receive the recognition they so deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 562 – 5(2): Umingmak Centre and the Department of Family Services

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, I would like to recognize the important collaborative work my department is involved in with the Umingmak Centre to advance the advocacy for children's rights to safety and well-being. The centre provides a safe place to provide services such as child interviews, counselling, and supports. Since it opened in October 2019, the centre has provided supports to 84 children and youth across Nunavut.

Umingmak works with a multidisciplinary team that includes the departments of Family Services, Justice, Health, Education, the RCMP, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The Umingmak Centre provides a centralized space for service providers to come together to support any child or youth who has experienced violence. This is a unique feature and is considered best practice in reducing any further trauma that may be incurred by the child or youth in a time of crisis.

Uqaqtitsijii, I am proud to say that the Department of Family Services is committed to continuing its partnership with the Umingmak Centre. My department continues to ensure that community social service workers receive training to become experts on interviewing techniques for children who have experienced sexual abuse to contribute our services to the centre. We will continue to provide oversight to the multidisciplinary team on case coordination and review, professional development, and future planning for Umingmak. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

Minister's Statement 563 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Arctic Bay Power Plant Project

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to my colleagues and those in my constituency in Cambridge Bay and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an update on the new power plant that is under construction in Arctic Bay. I am pleased to report that the project is ahead of schedule and within the approved budget.

As of December 2020, the power plant foundation and structure have been completed, and a barrier has been installed to fully winterize the site. Building construction will resume in the spring. Heavy equipment, including new fuel efficient generator sets, will arrive on the [first] sealift of the season and be installed by the end of the summer. The plant is expected to be operational and tested by March 2022.

The new power plant will replace the existing plant, which was built in 1974. The new building has been designed to incorporate current technologies to improve fuel consumption, noise reduction and air pollution, and accommodate increasing energy requirements in the community for the next 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation puts the energy needs of its customers at the forefront. By integrating modern technology in power plant replacements, the corporation is building a strong foundation to deliver long-term, clean energy solutions that benefit the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 564 – 5(2): Housing Project Collaboration

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has once again teamed up with the Department of Family Services, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Rankin Inlet Housing Association to renovate homes for future tenants.

Last year a group of trades program students from Nunavut Arctic College completed renovations on a fire-damaged unit in Rankin Inlet. These hard-working students rebuilt the unit from the ground up. It was completed in January, passed its inspection in February, and today provides a home for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) This year college students are renovating two more units and building a new one from scratch. They are gaining real-world skills they need to bridge the gap from education to employment. With their newfound construction and renovation skills, they will be valuable new hires for housing construction companies in their home communities. I wish them luck in their journey.

Mr. Speaker, what works in the south for addressing housing needs and challenges does not always work here, so we need to be creative and focus on increasing our self-reliance through Inuusivut, one of the priority areas of the government's *Turaaqtavut* mandate. This collaboration also helps fulfill the government's *Turaaqtavut* obligations under Sivummuaqpalliajjutivut by putting our communities first by offering local skills and trades training that will reduce our dependence on imported labour. We need made-in-Nunavut solutions.

I thank Family Services Minister Sheutiapik and Nunavut Arctic College Minister Joanase for funding and partnering with us on this important project. On behalf of my colleagues, I offer our congratulations to all the students and instructors involved. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 810 – 5(2): Income Tax Returns and COVID-19 Benefits**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have a statement today regarding income tax preparations as during this month we entered, along with April that is upcoming, income tax returns will be the focus of many residents here in Nunavut.

I seriously believe this year will be quite different from our past experiences related to the income tax returns this winter due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected this global village tremendously recognized as a (interpretation ends) pandemic (interpretation) and further due to the release of the vaccination and other measures by the federal government, including funds such as the (interpretation ends) Canada Emergency Response Benefit, or CERB (interpretation) in English.

It was made available to many Nunavummiut and they wanted only certain criteria such as level of income and employment, so many residents took advantage of their eligibility and although there is no information about the actual numbers of Nunavut residents who received the benefit, nonetheless, many residents who were on income support turned to CERB within 2020,

Now, in the upcoming months, I am unsure how income tax returns will affect those residents who end up with tax arrears as this forms my biggest concern, and furthermore, the Minister of Family Services has heard my questions on this issue over the winter, and yet, I want further clarification on this issue, as many of my constituents will be affected and I prefer that this affect is alleviated insofar as possible from the federal government.

Due to this reason, when we reach the appropriate agenda item, I will have questions on this issue to the Minister of Family Service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 811 – 5(2): The Impacts of Racism

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a good day to all the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, I will speak about the differences between races and how our residents can be impacted by this difference.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for the past two years I've been raising concerns about institutional errors. Two years ago there was such an elaborate answer in defense of the bureaucracy of the Government of Nunavut. I was completely floored by the response, and I believed it.

However, these are errors often made by non-Inuit who are in high level government positions. Their comments towards frontline workers, especially towards Inuit, and their decision regarding staffing and employment often seem to be driven by racism and nepotism.

A news story hit the national press this week about two frontline Inuit health care workers who were driven to quit their jobs after years of unfair and racist treatments by senior managers in the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, imagine if you will, working hard to manage a health facility which delivers an important service to your community and other communities in your region. Imagine doing that work for several years while the manager position is officially vacant. Imagine applying for the job that you have been doing for years, and being told that you're not qualified for it, but when the position is never filled, you are expected to continue doing the work. I believe you would feel unappreciated, frustrated and discouraged.

Mr. Speaker, there are many Inuit who are experienced and qualified to do jobs, but are not being hired into positions. Instead of recognizing the skills and abilities of Inuit who can do the work, senior managers are hiring people from outside of the territory who often leave after a couple of years. I would like to finish my comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? I hear no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A number of my constituents have come to me, to my home a number of times to complain about racist treatment they have experienced, some of it in the health field. That case in Montreal is not the only case, it happens in most isolated communities across Nunavut. This is very disturbing. There should be no tolerance for racism in our healthcare system. We need more Inuit working within our healthcare system. If our government continues to tolerate racist attitudes, we will not achieve this goal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time I'll be questioning more on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 812 – 5(2): Policing Services in Nunavut

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my fellow residents and to my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of policing services in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues will recall, I made a statement in this House almost a year ago today on this important issue.

(interpretation ends) At that time I spoke about the important role that Inuit historically played as special constables, and I want to pay tribute to the contributions and sacrifice of those who served our communities in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I also noted the importance of our police force becoming more representative of the people that it serves, and becoming more transparent and accountable to the public.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year, there has been some progress.

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to participate with my colleague, John Main, MLA for Arviat North-Whale Cove, in our Nunavut Senator's roundtable on body cameras for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and I am hopeful that the current pilot project will be successfully expanded.

Mr. Speaker, there has been talk in recent months about re-establishing some sort of "special constable" or "community constable" program for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Nunavut, and I wish to strongly express my support for this idea.

I also want to express my support for initiatives like the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's recently announced initiative to work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police... .

Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude my statement and get consent from my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

...the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to deliver an Assisted Application Training Program for Nunavut Inuit who are interested in pursuing careers with the service. Sorry. My apologies, my colleagues.

At that time I spoke about the important role... . What am I doing?

>>*Laughter*

Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

I am so sorry for being disorganized. Okay. Sorry, my colleagues.

I also want to express my support for the initiative that the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation's recently announced initiative to work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to deliver an Assisted Application Training Program for Nunavut Inuit who are interested in pursuing careers with the service.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to reinforce the recent comments made by my colleagues about the progress that we are making in considering new oversight legislation concerning investigations of serious incidents involving the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 813 – 5(2): Baker Lake Residents Helping Arviat Residents

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I am pleased to say that my mother was appointed again to the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit. I am happy.

Mr. Speaker, during times of crisis, we in the territory have always tried to come up with ways of trying to aid those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy and proud to say that the Agnico-Eagle Mines have the same kind of mindset where they try to provide assistance when and where they can. I can give an example; in Baker Lake they helped with search and rescue operations that took place around Baker Lake, and they had their truck drivers keeping an extra eye out as they travelled along the mine road. They have lent us the use of their helicopter pilot and staff to help in aiding with the aerial search, and actually picked up lost hunters via helicopter once the hunters were found by ground searchers.

Mr. Speaker, our fellow Nunavummiut know the community of Arviat has been dealing with the COVID-19 virus for a number of months now. Agnico-Eagle heard about the situation in Arviat and they contacted the (interpretation ends) Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers organization (interpretation) and offered the assistance of funding a caribou hunt for Arviarmiut. The month of December 2020 is when that caribou hunt took place.

The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization coordinated the hunt and through work and collaboration of these two institutions, a total of 61 caribou were sent to Arviat. I give my heartfelt thank you to the two organizations and to the people of Baker Lake that went out and hunted in the cold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We thank those who help their fellow citizens. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 814 – 5(2): Social Issues in Our Schools

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commend the community of Baker Lake for doing that for Arviat.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that we discussed briefly during our review of Bill 25 and has recently been explored in great detail in a series of media articles on violence on Nunavut's schools.

Mr. Speaker, the articles by CBC reporter Nick Murray present some eye-opening statistics and give some inside perspectives on the social issues that underlie incidents of violence and other negative behaviours and how they are dealt with or not.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly have been given to understand that the Department of Education is working with the Nunavut Teachers Association to develop a data collection system to record incidents of violence across Nunavut schools in a more systematic way.

It is important to have good, well-documented evidence in order to effectively address a problem. However, addressing the problems will need adequate resources and training, not to mention the dedicated staff to deliver such services as counselling and rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, I was struck by a comment made by one educator who said "It's not their fault," stating that no student "wants" to be violent.

Mr. Speaker, there are many factors and social issues that lead to aggression and violence. A lack of housing leads to overcrowding and children not being able to get a good night's sleep. Poverty and hunger means children end up going to school on empty stomachs. Home environments with domestic violence or substance abuse and addictions issues can heavily impact a child's mental health.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of counselling and mental health services for youth is a major concern. While our schools may not be able to address all these social issues at their root, they should provide the resources to help our students deal with them.

At the appropriate time I will have questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeegok.

Member's Statement 815 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccinations in the High Arctic

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my riding of Quttiktuq, at this time since I represent three communities, and on their behalf, I want to thank the Government of Nunavut as they were managing the communities quite well, and this includes the nurses handling the community health services.

During this week, Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay will be receiving their second round of vaccinations, and residents have been very resolute in partaking in these inoculation

rounds, and I further urge all residents to take their shots so that COVID-19 can be left behind.

As well, Arctic Bay is making preparations already, and announcements have been made that the process will begin on March 8 with the first round of vaccinations and many residents are anticipating this round and I further urge all residents to make an appointment, as this will be of great benefit to the pandemic measures.

With the pandemic affecting the entire globe, we have the privilege of receiving the vaccination early, and we are grateful to the Government of Nunavut for their work to acquire the vaccine along with the Department of Health. They have been very busy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 816 – 5(2): Institutional Racism in the Health Care System

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just heard that they have found the person that they were searching for, and I am very pleased.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) I rise today to add my voice to those who have been raising concerns about institutional racism in the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, like a lot of Nunavummiut, I was disturbed to hear of concerns that have been publicly expressed by former Inuit employees of the Department of Health working in the Kivalliq.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the situation is that well-qualified Inuit employees who made the effort to become fully certified in their chosen profession have felt forced out of their roles because of institutional racism and lack of support from departmental management.

Mr. Speaker, I fully understand that it is difficult to talk in detail about the specifics of personnel issues and human resources disputes in the public forum of this House.

However, the Minister of Health has now been quoted as stating that he is fully aware of this situation and I strongly encourage him to take the appropriate actions; and I believe he will.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we hear the frustrations of our constituents when they cannot find meaningful employment because of their lack of qualifications or certifications.

Mr. Speaker, it boggles my mind that the government would be willing to lose educated and trained Inuit professionals who were providing a vital service.

Mr. Speaker, situations like this cannot continue.

If we are to make real progress towards building a stronger Nunavut, we need to make every effort to ensure that our workplaces are inclusive and reflective of our values and culture. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Let us proceed. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I know there are people watching the proceedings on TV. Continuing on. Oral Questions. Member for Pond Inlet, Mr. Qamaniq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1181 – 5(2): Policing Services in Nunavut

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to be more organized this time. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As I noted in my member's statement, an important element of building trust between Nunavut communities and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is increasing the number of Inuit in the ranks of the service.

In January of this year the Royal Canadian Mounted Police announced a partnership with the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation to deliver an Assisted Application Training Program for Nunavut Inuit who are interested in pursuing careers with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has two seats on Makigiaqta's Board of Directors.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, think is an excellent opportunity for members of our public that want to join the RCMP or policing in general.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately with the COVID situation and the RCMP depot being shut down, we had seven original applicants, of which three still remain that the RCMP are in

continual contact with and will continue to assist them through the application process, but we are still awaiting the depot in Saskatchewan to reopen for training for RCMP members. 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. (interpretation ends) As I noted in my member's statement, I was pleased to note that there has been talk about re-establishing some type of "special constable" or "community constable" program for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Nunavut. Can the minister provide an update today on what specific discussions he has had with the Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's "V" Division on this idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member bringing this topic up. I think it's very important to promote having more Nunavummiut involved with the policing system overall. We all know that as issues arise in our communities and recent events in the member's riding himself show the importance of having Nunavummiut respond to some of these concerns that know the people involved, that know the culture involved to diffuse any situations.

Mr. Speaker, I've had a few conversations with Ms. Jones on this topic. In fact one of my first briefings with the RCMP, I recognized the need to work with the RCMP to enhance the special constable or something similar of that nature. There are more complexities in law enforcement now than there were a generation or two ago which does complicate things, but I can assure the member that we are working with numerous different factors or ideas to help make sure that there's more community engagement as well as more Nunavummiut engaged with the law enforcement side of my portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for answering my questions. If he can respond further to part of my next question, he might have a different response or indicate that he already responded to it.

(interpretation ends) As I noted in my member's statement, it is essential that work be undertaken to improve the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's capacity to serve Inuit in their language. As the minister is aware, his department's business plan indicates that "four Inuktitut-speaking call-taker positions within the RCMP were approved in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. These individuals will be trained...to receive and respond to calls from the public and relay the message to the relevant members and communities in Nunavut."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of filling these positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. Unfortunately I had the information in my head earlier and now I'm second-guessing myself, so just to make sure that the member gets accurate information, I will get back to the member with an update on those staffing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): I don't have a question. (interpretation ends) I didn't raise my hand.

Speaker (interpretation): Continuing on. I'm sorry. I had your name written down. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 1182 – 5(2): Impacts of Racism

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I was listening to the Minister of Health yesterday responding to one of my colleagues, Mr. Kaernerck.

I deliberated on the fact that in Quebec currently, I believe in Puvirnituk, they have Inuit midwives who are extremely capable providing birthing services over there for the many women who require the service, and furthermore, we have already perused the article about the challenges faced by the *Irnisuksijit* facility in Rankin Inlet and why it has been shoddily run for many years due to senior management paternalism and racial denigration of the Inuit workers, so it makes one wonder if we can even run one here in Nunavut where Inuit form the majority.

Now, racial discrimination...I apologize. I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I am starting to become like David, nervous as I am sitting at the end of this side. To continue, racial discrimination is something Inuit sometimes have difficulty understanding, and personally, I never experienced it until I went for post-secondary studies in the south, where I experienced discrimination and (interpretation ends) racism (interpretation) right here in Canada.

It is alive and well, especially against aboriginal people and coloured peoples, however, here in Nunavut, we Inuit form the majority of the population, yet the minority is blatantly disparaging and belittling Inuit due to their racial discrimination against our skin colour. That is not really my question here.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I addressed the issue of racism in the health care field. There is a perception that Inuit are not being treated fairly in their employment as professionals because of their cultural or ethnic background.

Can the minister clarify whether he is aware of any complaints by senior health care staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. In terms of am I aware of senior health care staff going through that, there might come a point where I would be notified of a situation, but as of right now, I have not received that notification.

There are steps that are taken in terms of where you go, especially with the guidelines and new additions in terms of where people who are working within any government department are now encouraged to filling out forms. I can refer to the 10-10 form for an example, where people can complain anonymously about the situation they're in. If it's racism or other complaint within that, if it's any kind of harassment, they can do that anonymously if they so choose.

Those complaints would not, in terms of health, come to me immediately. There may be some out there, but at this point I currently do not know that level at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Mr. Speaker, as you know, our language is sometimes silent. We say no with our noses; yes with our eyebrows. Very often Inuit say action speaks louder. Often the body language of a health professional can speak louder than any memo on the subject of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, a recent story in the media described the experiences of two Inuit midwives at the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre. These individuals have been working over several years, over a decade, as the minister knows, to provide a very important service to their community and their region.

I thank the minister for being very candid, thank you, but can the minister clarify whether he or any of his officials have conducted any kind of investigation into the circumstances which resulted in these two Inuit health professionals resigning from their jobs, or an exit interview? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will tread lightly as I don't want to get into a "he said, she said" and get into details on this particular topic.

I will say this though, Mr. Speaker: upon being given the portfolio of Health, one of the very first priorities I had was to deal with this very topic; the birthing centre is in Rankin Inlet. It is in the community that I represent. It happened to two Inuit professionals, above all professional. I have four grandchildren and they had a big role to play in that. They are very, very caring people. Having said that, I personally have had meetings with these individuals.

I have directed our department to take a look not just at the birthing centre issue in Rankin Inlet, but to see where it started and how we could correct it so that it doesn't come back again, and our department is taking a look at that whole issue. We want to see all of the particular details into where, what, when, why, and all of those, and move forward so that this does not happen to them or anybody else again in the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confident that the minister will do his job properly.

An Inuk came to me because they wanted to apply for a higher position that had opened. This person went to their supervisor, but the supervisor said "You aren't capable." (interpretation ends) A staff member wanted to go to a higher-level job, and she went to her director. The higher level manager informed her as an Inuk beneficiary "You are incapable" and also continued to enforce her as all other Inuit beneficiaries; that means that each of us under the land claim.

However, I am confident that the minister will agree that there is no room for racism in our health care system, or any of the institutions that the GN does have.

It is very disappointing when our Inuit care workers feel they are incapable of doing their jobs or they no longer stay in the jobs they love because of the way they are being treated. Will the minister commit to reviewing his department's policies with respect to racism and how his department addresses allegations of racism at the time it is occurring, and not after the fact, because these staff members do not feel safe in approaching anyone?

Remember, they are dealing with high-level officials. So in saying that, can the minister address these allegations and report back to the House on what structural changes could be implemented or what is being considered as a strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has a zero tolerance policy on harassment of any kind. This government has put together some changes into those policies and make it available so that you could make complaints anonymously, and

I encourage anybody out there that are staff; senior staff or junior staff that feel that they are being misrepresented or bullied, or any of those to please fill out the form and make a complaint. For anybody who feels that they have an opportunity in Health or any other department; that they have an opportunity to apply for a job that is higher than or lower than the position they're in, please apply for it. You don't need anybody's permission to apply for a job. You go and do it without seeking requirements from your supervisor.

Mr. Speaker, there is no room for bullying in government departments anywhere, in politics in government or anywhere in Nunavut. There should be zero tolerance of that at all levels, and I will continue to work within our department to make sure that everybody that works within Health is treated fairly across the board and if anybody feels that they are not, or that they are made to feel that they are at a disadvantage, I am more than happy to take their call and concerns, and encourage them to fill out the appropriate forms so that they can be addressed accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 1183 – 5(2): New School for Taloyoak

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

My questions today are for the Minister of Education. I would like to ask my question because the residents in my constituency of Netsilik have been asking when they will see a new school in Taloyoak.

Can the minister provide an update on what steps have been taken towards planning and building a new school in the community of Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Netsilik for his question.

Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the fact that the Netsilik school in Taloyoak is operating at a capacity of 103 percent when it comes to the size of the school, and the number of students. Due to this fact, we have in fact initiated capital planning, and as I understand it at the moment, the design will be initiated in the 2021-22 fiscal year. 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. It's now clear that this issue is being addressed.

(interpretation ends) Even though the youth have not been in school for some time due to the COVID pandemic, life is slowly returning to normal. Students will be very happy and eager to get back to class and their lessons.

To make the youth and parents of Taloyoak even happier, can the minister tell us exactly when we might expect to see a new school opening in the community of Taloyoak?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many of our communities in Nunavut want to see a new school. We have begun our capital planning process.

However, I cannot say exactly what year or month there will be a new school. Currently, within the upcoming fiscal year, there will be other capital projects that we are dealing with.

Perhaps if it's COVID-19 related we will do it in a different way. There might be a slight delay. I would like them to be aware of these things. 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 responding even though the current situation is that we cannot know if there will be a slight delay or a big delay; we just don't know.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that we are in our final year of our term of the Assembly. We will have one last opportunity to review the government's capital plan in the fall.

Will the minister commit to providing an update on the status of the construction of the new school in Taloyoak when we meet for the fall sitting in six months' time?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. We are on our capital items that we are working on. We can provide an update in the fall sitting as to where we stand at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 1184 – 5(2): Options for Respite Housing

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Before I go to my question I would like to wish my grandson a happy 17th birthday. He is one of the special people that are being looked after down south; and I would like to thank the government for looking after him. Maybe one day we will look after these special people in our own communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. Maybe she's getting tired of my questions, and if she is, she can always say "yes" to every question I'm asking.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure we are all aware of the strong connection between overcrowding in our houses and poor mental health. When there are 11 or 16 people in one unit, which happens; it is there, trying to find a peaceful place to sleep or to have some quiet and privacy to think and relax is very difficult.

Mr. Speaker, it would be very good for people to have a place to go to even for a short time where they could have a bit of their own space. It would certainly help their mental health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe what options are being considered to provide short-term respite housing in those communities which have a high rate of overcrowding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. I'm happy to be asked questions, and I use them for consideration with my staff.

(interpretation ends) I can say that the Poverty Reduction [Division] has a roundtable every year, and last year's theme was Ikuqqa. (interpretation) We have *Turaaqtavut* on what our goal is.

(interpretation ends) At that roundtable last year, every community member was represented, and the goal was for each individual to go back to their community, because we believe the community knows best what's available/underutilized and for them to

come back to see what kind of places could be used for respite. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Nunavut Hidden Homelessness Survey*, which was tabled in September 2020, provided some disturbing statistics on the level of overcrowding in the community of Gjoa Haven. Over 54 people in the community had to sleep in an area of a house that was not a bedroom. Mr. Speaker, they were sleeping in living rooms, laundry rooms, and porches. Some were sleeping in hallways, kitchens, storage rooms, or even crawl spaces.

Mr. Speaker, would the minister agree that having a dedicated space where people can go to get a decent night's sleep would be a better option than sleeping in laundry rooms or porches? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really heard "Sheutiapik" there.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, homelessness is not new; it's really unfortunate. Even pan-territorially there was a report on hidden homelessness. At that time I used to quote; I would travel across Nunavut and to Ottawa and took quotes of that report. It's sad, it really is. Unfortunately I can't fix it all during this sitting, but we certainly have made attempts in the sense of, thanks to your support in this House in the last few years, we have increased our employees like homeless coordinators to help us gather and justify for the federal government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot stress enough how important it is for one's mental health to have a decent place to sleep in, to relax in and to be comfortable. We are all so lucky that we have that and there are a lot of Nunavummiut who do not have it.

Mr. Speaker, even if it is only on a temporary basis, having respite housing for people to stay in for short periods of time could have a very positive impact on their mental wellness and health.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to looking into options to provide respite housing in the community of Gjoa Haven and reporting back to this House on her findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't know if I can commit to having a respite, but I will certainly commit to having my staff work with your community to see if there's any space available to make respite. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Question 1185 – 5(2): Resources to Address Social Issues in Our Schools

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say “good afternoon” to my constituents and my little niece, who is watching very intently. Hi, Ivy.

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke of the shocking statistics detailing the extent of violence in Nunavut schools and the lack of resources for helping students to address the situation.

Can the minister clarify how counselling positions are allocated to individual Nunavut schools and what specific training counsellors have in order to provide mental health support to our students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, in our department we allocate *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* per school, so every single school has a counsellor.

Mr. Speaker, some of the training that our *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* are provided include mental health and well-being, resiliency, and healthy lifestyles, promoting positive attitudes, and there's specific training around how to regulate their emotions, such as Northern Zones and MindMasters, as well as the one called “Our Children, Our Responsibility,” which deals with sexual abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that most Nunavut schools have school community counsellors, who provide very important support for emotional wellness, mental health promotion, and cultural counselling, but very few schools, fewer than five, have formal guidance counsellors who are professionally trained to help youth

who may have experienced trauma or are caught up in violent behaviours. Youth are our future and the lack of care for them now will magnify in the future.

Can the minister describe what steps are being taken to ensure that adequate and proper mental health counselling services will be made available to those Nunavut students who need it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Violence in schools is a very serious matter and we believe it's a very concerning reality across the country, not just within Nunavut. The member pointed to some factors that lead to violence in schools that are found outside of the school. We believe it's a whole-of-government approach that needs to be taken to address it. Nonetheless, Nunavut should be rest assured that my department is doing its very best with the resources that we do have to eliminate all forms of violence in our schools.

With that, some of the reporting that came out in the media, just to point out that the incidents that were captured might not necessarily involve violence, so there are such things that our schools report on that might not necessarily be a violent incident, but it's an incident that requires attention and our school team provides that support to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, it seems that if a local district education authority wishes to hire a formally trained guidance counsellor, they have to give up a full time teacher position. It disturbs me that DEAs have to decide whether to sacrifice a teaching position, which should be focused on providing quality education, in order to hire a guidance counsellor to address mental health needs. Our government should be ensuring that any DEA which requests a guidance counsellor who is specially trained to provide mental health counselling and trauma should be allocated that position without giving up a teacher position.

Will the minister commit to revising the policy which requires DEAs to choose between having a guidance counsellor position or a teacher position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're taking a hard look at the school funding formula and it has undergone some thorough review, and through the main estimates process, we are anticipating a new, revised formula and that has taken over a good few years to come to this point. We're looking at increasing school resources and

person years in our schools over the coming years and I look forward to presenting those when the time comes. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

Question 1186 – 5(2): Income Assistance Recipients Receiving CERB Payments

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. First of all, Minister Sheutiapik, welcome. It's great that you're back. Initially, I asked this question to Minister Akeeagok.

(interpretation ends) There have been continuing developments in the CERB, Canada Emergency Response Benefit saga, and at the federal level, just very briefly, the Canada Revenue Agency sent out 441,000 educational letters back in December 2020. The Canada Revenue Agency has also recently flip-flopped on self-employment related issues related to gross and net income calculations, and the "flip-flopping", that's my characterization, of course.

The CRA has also extended a grace period for repayments for interest payments on balances owing, extending until April, 2022.

I would like to turn my attention to the Nunavut government and Department of Family Services. The last time I raised this issue, I believe the department was still trying to track how many income assistance recipients received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit in 2020. How many received the CERB and transitioned off of income assistance in 2020? That's my first question for the minister. Has the department calculated a final number in terms of how many income assistance recipients received CERB money in 2020? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. (interpretation ends) The one time I appreciate the technology.

Close to 10,000 recipients in Nunavut, of which a couple thousand were income assistance clients, switched to CERB. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. (interpretation ends) A couple thousand income assistance recipients.

My next question is; I am aware that the department has been providing support and assistance to income assistance clients who have obligations or things to clear up with regard to the CERB benefit.

My next question is: how many income assistance recipients has the department helped to set up repayment plans, regarding CERB benefits? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for your question. I can say right now that most have returned to income assistance, and currently the federal government is finalizing some information that they will be sharing with us. (interpretation) 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) My final question for the minister is: can the minister summarize the department's position with regard to CERB issues and how they impact income assistance clients, and can the minister commit to tabling correspondence with her federal counterparts, any correspondence that may exist, on the issue in the House? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We don't have exact numbers, but as you know, anytime there is a request, if there's any information from the federal government, I will gladly provide it to the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1187 – 5(2): Supports for Social Workers

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) I think the Minister of Family Services is in the hot seat today because my question is for her.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to note the minister's statement on Nunavut's social workers and their role in supporting families and helping them to rebuild. It is indeed an essential job and a very demanding and stressful one.

Can the minister tell us today what kinds of supports are offered to social workers themselves, especially those who work in smaller communities with few colleagues and sometimes no colleagues, when they themselves need assistance, counselling, or some respite to prevent burnout? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. To be honest, I don't feel like I'm in the hot seat; I just appreciate it.

In talking to our department, as you know, I'm very impacted some of the social challenges in our territory, so I'm very passionate and have candid conversations with our department. On that front, I know our department has created a newsletter in-house to share with each other positive things as an avenue to share stories, even recipes. It's another avenue for them to assist each other, whether they're in a small community or a bigger centre. I know that is one avenue that the department is really keen on because they do share that newsletter with me. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response and that with the newsletter. I think it's a good start and I'm hoping that actually there are some good opportunities for actual counselling for social workers. I think they carry an awful lot on their shoulders and have to deal with very sensitive issues that would probably require... . If I were a social worker, I think I would need more than a newsletter.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement indicated that the legislation which governs how services are provided to children and adults who need support and protection, which is the *Child and Family Services Act*, is administered in accordance with Inuit societal values.

Can the minister clearly explain how her department ensures that Inuit societal values are properly and appropriately incorporated when social workers provide protection services to our children and youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Family Services, Ms. Towtongie. I'm sorry. Ms. Sheutiapik.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

I'm sorry. Once I start laughing, I can't stop. I even forgot the question. (interpretation ends) Could you please repeat your question? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. Would you please repeat your question for clarification, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement indicated that the legislation which governs how services are provided to children and adults who need support and protection, which is the *Child and Family Services Act*, is administered in accordance with Inuit societal values.

Can the minister clearly explain how her department ensures that Inuit societal values are properly and appropriately incorporated when social workers provide protection services to our children and youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you (interpretation ends) for the question.

Mr. Speaker, like any minister, we look to our colleagues at the federal/territorial/provincial meetings to get best practices, and then we also use that and work with our social service workers to ensure that any new practices that might be utilized in our territory... I guess the best way to say it is we 'Nunavutize' it by using Inuit societal values. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't think I got a proper answer. I was trying to get at how you actually apply Inuit societal values into your practices, especially when you are talking about children and the protection of children.

I think in Nunavut there has been a lot of discussion and a lot of talk about when you take a child away from a family. People are concerned that the traditional way of dealing with those kinds of situations are not always adhered to. Perhaps I'll get back to the minister on that to get more information around that. So if she can be prepared.

Mr. Speaker, while the mandate of the Department of Family Services is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children, it is my understanding that the department often conducts interventions and investigations on behalf of children or youth in vulnerable situations.

Can the minister provide further detail on how social workers and departmental officials conduct these investigations and interventions, and clarify what other agencies they work with to address issues relating to the safety and protection of our children and youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you (interpretation ends) for that question.

I do believe my minister's statement today is an example of how in the communities different departments work closely together to determine what would be the best way to protect a child. It may be bringing them to Iqaluit to Umingmak so that they are not re-traumatized by having several questions asked by different departments in one place. This is a really good starting point for our youth and children. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 1188 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure for Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

First of all, on February 24, the hamlet council of Sanirajak passed a motion with regard to conducting a study on building marine infrastructure. I'm sure he's not going to like it, but I would like to ask the minister if he has read the motion or if he has directed departmental staff to look at the Sanirajak motion. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have read it carefully, and at that time we took immediate action to look at the situation because we had requested funds for (interpretation ends) community scoping. (interpretation) The Hamlet of Sanirajak's proposal and our proposal and how they can work together is currently where we are at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that the minister has read the motion. You answered a part of my second question with regard to building marine infrastructure. It's very important to the people of Sanirajak and I'm very pleased that the hamlet council has started taking action.

Can the Department of Economic Development and Transportation give any kind of support, be it financial or in-kind, or in working with your federal counterparts to direct or to start the construction of marine infrastructure?

Can the Department of Economic Development and Transportation provide the funds, or is there some program that is available so we can start constructing the marine facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, presently, we look at the needs of each of Nunavut's communities. Our department will be getting proposals from the communities, but with this motion we did receive some funds from the gas tax, so we'll look at what we can combine together and what we might provide, and work closely with the Hamlet of Sanirajak. We also provide funds to the communities, even though we expend the whole funds, the communities can still submit proposals and we can look at other programs.

I'm very pleased that you and your community are willing to take on a large project. We try to make sure that these programs get started with the help of the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information that the minister has provided.

Now, let me try to paraphrase my question or rephrase my question when it comes to allocating funding or granting some funding to the Sanirajak municipality when it comes to a feasibility study for their breakwater project. I do believe it's a very important initiative when it comes to these marine infrastructure projects because Sanirajak has been trying to get this going, and I can say that my predecessors, the previous MLAs have been trying to push the government too on this matter.

So can the minister commit to the Assembly, if for instance, when it comes to marine infrastructure development will Economic Development Transportation be able to provide funding to at least at maybe elevate their project and give it a higher priority rather than just a feasibility study and make it a project when it comes to infrastructure.

Can the minister commit to this Assembly how will there be any funding for this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is trying really hard to secure funding to build more docks and ports throughout the whole territory, which is

why we have started the Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study, which I was hoping would be done by now, but due to a number of factors it has been delayed.

I am hoping that by this summer we should have a report ready which will then allow me to go to the federal government through the Oceans Protection Plan or through other forums of funding to try and secure more funding for our communities for the docks or ports throughout. I know every community would like to have one, and so far they're slowly getting back to the business of building ports and docks, and this is something that I am very eager to present to our federal partners because it will require a lot of money; a lot of money that we currently don't have with this Legislative Assembly as we are doing our operations and maintenance right now.

Our capital dollars are so small and with these types of huge infrastructure our federal partner is in a better position to build these. That is something through working with you, myself, and with this House that we can do these sort of things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that the time for question period has expired and we proceed to Item 7. No. 7. Written Questions. No. 8. Returns to Written Questions. No. 9. Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. Replies to Budget Address. 11. Petitions. 12. Responses to Petitions. No. 13. (interpretation ends) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) No. 14. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Ms. Towtongie.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 352 – 5(2): Toronto Star Article: Inuit Midwives say they left after experiencing years of mistreatment

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table an article from *The Toronto Star* regarding the experience of two Inuit midwives in Rankin Inlet, and I ask my colleagues to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Tabled Document 353 – 5(2): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council 2019-2020 Annual Report

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council for 2019-2020 Annual Report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Ehaloak.

Tabled Document 354 – 5(2): Sport and Recreation Division 2019-2020 Annual Report**Tabled Document 355 – 5(2): Petroleum Products Division 2017-2018 Annual Report**

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the following two reports:

- The Sport and Recreation Division's 2019-2020 Impact Report; and
- The Petroleum Product Division's 2017-18 Annual Report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) No. 17. (interpretation ends) Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 17: Motions**Motion 106 – 5(2): Legislative Assembly Appointment**

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of members of the Management and Services Board;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make an appointment;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, that Mr. Calvin Pedersen, Member for Kugluktuk, be appointed to the Management and Services Board.

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.

>>Applause

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Continuing on. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 58, 59, 60, and 61 with Mr. Akoak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:19 and Committee resumed at 15:44*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Akoak): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 58, 59, 60, and 61. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the 2021-22 Main Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 59?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to 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, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To my left I have Constance Hourie, who is the deputy minister, and to my right, Kyle Seeley, who is the acting assistant deputy minister for local government, and to his right we have Nathaniel Hutchinson, who is the director of the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome to the...Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I begin, I want to make a correction I made yesterday when Member Netser asked about some positions within the Kivalliq region. He asked whether or not the assistant deputy minister for local government, where the process is was in advertising. The position has been advertised. It's a Rankin Inlet competition. It closed on November 27 and the competition is currently ongoing.

The director of community development, which is located in Rankin Inlet, the competition closed on February 15, and there were unsuccessful applicants and it has been re-advertised. The closing date for the position is May 22, 2020 and it was unsuccessful again. Currently it's in the process of advertising again. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. We are on page J-5. Local Government Services. The last name I had on that page is Mr. Kaernek and that's the only name I'll be putting on this page so that we can go to the next ones. Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials.

I'm on page 205 of the business plan and in the first bullet, priorities for 2020-21, is to "Continue to work with...Health and Environment, in conjunction with the Government of Nunavut's Sustainable Development Advisory Group" with the Water Strategy and the Drinking Water Strategic Framework. My first question is: are these advisory groups within the CGS department or where are they? If you can further explain on that before I move on to my next question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The water strategy group consists of staff from Community and Government Services, the Department of Health, and the Department of Environment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you have said on the status part, "The department is participating in the finalization of the Drinking Water Strategic..." and so on and "...require additional input and engagement from stakeholders in 2021." Could you further explain how this will be finalized when it comes to drinking water and water strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The drinking water strategy is stalled at the moment because the strategy is dependent upon the Nunavut Water Board's water management strategy and the Nunavut Water Board's management strategy has stalled and it is unsure when that strategy will start up again. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information. I hope my next question will be on operations and maintenance.

With my other constituency, a part of Igloolik is one of my constituencies and when it comes to their water reservoir, well, for both communities, is the department planning to assist both hamlets in Sanirajak and Igloolik when it comes to fencing those water reservoirs and when will there be a project? Will it be this spring, or in the summer? If you can enlighten me on that, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services is working with the municipalities to ensure that we start working on those. Through you Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's questions on the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The fencing for the reservoir's lagoons and solid waste sites is one of the elements of managing those facilities. There have been fencing projects undertaken funded by the department and managed by the Municipality of Igloolik over the last couple of years around at least one of those three assets, and more recently I know that gas tax applications, small projects applications have been submitted by the community's core funding to ensure that the fencing is around the reservoirs to protect them.

That is one of the requirements identified within municipal water licensing and we are working with communities. Those projects have not been fully reviewed or approved yet for the upcoming fiscal year but I am aware that the projects are planned and identified by those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information, Mr. Seeley. I really hope that there will be some kind of a go-ahead.

Moving onto my question, when it comes to clean water strategic planning, as we all know, Igloolik is an island and they sometimes have water advisories, especially in the spring and summer.

In your business plan on [page] 207, in the second last bullet, “Engage with relevant stakeholders to develop an action plan for the Drinking Water Strategic framework...”.

My question would be: how can Community and Government Services be able to make a strategic plan when it comes to clean water? Is there a plan to have the water come from the mainland or pump it from the mainland? How is CGS working with the Municipality of Igloolik when it comes to a strategic water plan and clean water reservoir? I guess that would my final question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through the Community and Government Services work in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Department of Environment, a draft water strategy framework has been composed and we’re identifying high levels of objectives to manage our drinking water supplies within our communities.

The strategy will be reviewed with each community, territory and federal stakeholders, and when it’s finalized the department will begin the development of corresponding action with each community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Local Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$89,957,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. J-5, J-6. Information Management and Information Technology. Total Operations and Maintenance. Questions? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is with the department’s draft 2021 business plan on page 209. The budget for telecommunications is decreasing by 19.9 percent from \$13,562,000 in this year, 2020-21, to \$10,862,000 in the 2021-22 fiscal year. I’d like to know how this decrease was determined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The main reason where we are not spending the full amount in the telecommunications budget line is that no additional capacity was available for us to purchase. The Government of Nunavut had already subscribed to the significant portion of the Ka-band capacity and there was no additional C-band capacity available. We knew that when

additional services down the road would become available we would need access to the funds again.

So but in the short-term, the funding was better utilized by being re-profiled for 2021-22 to other areas within our division. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question, and thank you for the response. Last year in 2019 the Government of Nunavut was impacted by ransomware incident as you know, but on page [210] that your department indicates "...developed a new network after the ransomware attack, and IM/IT moved to a Cloud First solution. The Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plans were upgraded to consider the new infrastructure and processes. Many of the enterprise tools were moved to a Cloud based approach."

As of today, how much has the government spent to date to address the ransomware incident? My final question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So far the Government of Nunavut has spent \$5.4 million on the ransomware. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The next name on my list, the last name on the page, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister can break down that figure of \$5.4 million. Is that \$5.4 million worth of equipment, is that just within CGS, or does that represent the whole government; all of the departments? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm just trying to find the figures. Just one moment please. Unfortunately we don't have those actual figures, but we can get them for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. Has there been any type of analysis done on the ransomware incident, post-mortem would be the best way to describe it. Has there been any internal reviews of what went wrong and what's been learned from that whole incident? It's obvious the reason I'm asking is, from where I sit, I haven't seen a lot of analysis of that incident, and I would be very much interested to see analysis. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, there was a large analysis done on the ransomware itself and how it affected all of the Government of Nunavut, and what the implications were and what we can do to move forward to ensure that that doesn't happen again. We have the report and we can provide it for the members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I guess the minister knew what my next question was going to be. Thank you, and on behalf of our research staff as well, thank you for offering the report. We love reports most of the time.

I had questions based on the business plan, which mentions several instances. It mentions... . Actually first I'm going to follow up on Ms. Towtongie's question and the minister's response. The minister's response; she mentioned funds being re-profiled within the division. I wonder if we could get a little bit more information as to where the funds were re-profiled to, and these are the funds from the telecommunications line item. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, I'll ask Ms. Hourie to answer the member's question. Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. If you drop down in the business plan, on page 209, to Information Technology, besides the dollar figure that the minister identified in her response, some of that funding went into that line item; Information Technology. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So that was going to be my next question, was: what explains the jump in funding being requested under "Information Technology" line item; approximately \$6 million increase in this fiscal year. It is significant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$5.8 million was the increases for the ongoing licencing of \$3.05 million for Microsoft, Zscaler, Cisco and Zero-Based Tool, and cyber security, which is \$1 million, applications of \$1.3 million,

which is the applications, our back-ups and cloud-based helpdesk platform, and equipment of \$450,000. All licences and applications and equipment is new with the exception of Microsoft. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think I know the answer to this question, but I'll ask it anyway. This increased cost to operate the network, it's going to be the new increased higher cost of operating the network is anticipated to continue into the future fiscal years? Is that the case, or are these one-time charges? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These costs will continue as the Government of Nunavut has moved to cloud-based services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, minister. I would like to ask about low Earth orbit satellites. It's mentioned several times. It's in the business plan. I'm looking at page 210 of the business plan and it mentions "Low Earth Orbit fibre back-haul" at the very top of page 210 and then it also mentions low Earth orbit technology with regard to Telesat. I understand a little bit about low Earth orbit satellites, but I would like to understand: what specifically is the department's role in this new technology? What is the department's role in seeing this come to Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The low Earth orbit satellites provide fibre-like speed, low latency, and reliable service. It also enables the capacity of ISP...sorry if I'm not explaining the acronym...to offer unlimited data plans. They also have a built-in redundancy. For communities connected with fibre, low Earth orbits will be redundancy for those communities. It also lacks the capacity of fibre. The more communities we have connected to fibre reduces the strain on the low Earth orbit satellite capacity, therefore ensuring the smaller communities have their bandwidth requirements met or exceeded. We should be using 250 gigabytes of bandwidth and by 2035 we will use 5,000 gigabytes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) On page 210 under status update it says, "The department continues to work with Telesat to test and prepare the network for Low Earth Orbit technology." What does it mean that the department is working with Telesat? I'm interested in that update and I'm particularly

interested in the relationship with Telesat and the department. Can I get a bit of explanation? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

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

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. Just going back a little bit, I think about a year and half or about a year ago, we started working with Telesat as one of the first low Earth orbit providers and we were actually one of the testing grounds for them. The GN tested one of the satellites going up. I can't recall from the top of my head whether it was one or two satellites, but they put the satellite up and we did a ground test to see the latency and different things with that testing satellite. From that, that's how we worked with Telesat. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is the department's role limited to helping with testing this technology, or are there other parts to the relationship with Telesat? The reason I ask is there are other companies who are moving faster than Telesat and this technology.

For example, SpaceX; I believe they have some satellites that are supposed to be flying either yesterday or today, they were going to shoot them up and some more up there. What is the relationship beyond this testing of this technology? Have there been agreements signed that the department will work with Telesat exclusively, or that the department will be a customer to Telesat if they get a constellation of satellites up? I'm just trying to understand the relationship, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there are no agreements signed with any companies. The companies that are working on the low-earth orbits are Telesat, SpaceX, OneWeb and Amazon. We will be working with the vendors as testing becomes available to us, and determine if the system is viable for Nunavut communities. We will meet with them to check how their technology works, and we'll continue to communicate with the four groups that are working on low-earth orbits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So on that same bullet, it mentions the fibre project; it mentions the commercialization of fibre,

which is, I believe and O&M activity, on a capital project. It also mentions alternative opportunities for under-sea fibre in addition to Greenland.

I'm specifically interested in what the department's interactions are with the Kativik Regional Government, which is working on its own fibre project, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, which also has a fibre-related project that's been proposed, or is being worked on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in regular contact with the KRG, which is the Kativik Regional Government, on their fibre project, and once they're in Salluit, we would like to try and connect Kimmirut and Iqaluit with working closely with the Kativik Regional Government. The Greenland project; we would rather work with the Kativik Regional Government, because we want to stay working with a Canadian organization, as Greenland is an international government.

And the hydro project, we have met with previously, and we are keeping close contact. We are monitoring the Kivalliq hydro project, and we'll continue to monitor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) In terms of that Kivalliq project, have there been any requests made of the department by the Kivalliq Inuit Association? Have they requested a letter of support? Have they requested any commitments from the department that would help their project get built?

I'm fully in support of that project and I believe it would be transformative to the entire Kivalliq region if that was built. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have not approached Community and Government Services or the government on any type of support. They are a standalone application to the federal government for their project, but we are monitoring and we do support their project as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Ehaloak. Mr. Main, I will allow you a couple of more questions as you are going into capital funding. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I apologize. It is all mentioned in the business plan, so I guess I will keep to the planning process.

I think I just have a closing comment, and it's on this page, and it is that this is one of the toughest areas for government to monitor and have oversight over in terms of financial management and in terms executing projects on budget and making sure that things go smoothly.

It is not just the Nunavut government. I believe this is something worldwide, and it is something that we have to keep in mind as MLAs when we look at these budgets that are put in front of us when we are considering mega-projects that are up for approval or discussion; is that this is an area that is very difficult to manage financially and politically.

I think I just wanted to thank the department for providing us a briefing on the fibre project and by doing that I think we have saved a lot of time here today. With that, I will cut myself off, (interpretation) Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main. I think Minister Ehaloak wants to comment. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will continue. I can commit to the members that, as the Minister of Community and Government Services, we will continue to keep the members informed as this is a very important project for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page J-6. Information Management and Information Technology. Total. Operations and Maintenance. To be Voted, \$44,251,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page J-7. Infrastructure. Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. On page 215 of Community and Government Services' business plan, for the priorities for 2021-22, in the fourth bullet, they want to "Continue planning and implementation of the Nunavut Energy Management Initiative with commencement of construction activities in the North Baffin... ."

If you can further explain which North Baffin communities are getting construction activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The north Baffin communities are: Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Amittuq will be North Baffin in consideration with Clyde River, just food for thought.

Moving on to my next question, in the very next bullet, when it comes to the Nunavut *Building Code Act* or the Nunavut emergency code of Canada for buildings, the community I represent, part of Igloolik, is the government and Community and Government Services working with the hamlets with their maintenance garage when it comes to the Nunavut *Building Code Act* and, if so, how is the department assisting or supporting with their request for a Nunavut *Building Code Act*? *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department, Community and Government Services, works closely with municipalities when it comes to the review and study of the impacts of the Nunavut *Building Code Act*, and we will ensure that we work closely with them for any new buildings or any changes that they have to follow in the Act. When a municipality has applications for new buildings within their community, they work in conjunction. The application, the process is sent to Community and Government Services to review so that they're not breaking any Building Code Acts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the information on that topic.

When it comes to maintenance, has the Hamlet of Igloolik ever submitted applications to have their maintenance garage maintained and in good condition when it comes to the Nunavut *Building Code Act*? Have they ever submitted an application to have their maintenance garage maintained in a proper garage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The municipality has not submitted any applications, but I can say that capital projects or repairs to any maintenance garages have been delayed since March, so it has been one year, because it's difficult bringing in contractors into Nunavut because of COVID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to at least add some capital projects in there, and I thank you for that information.

Moving on to my next question, on 216, the first bullet, the "Nunavut Fibre Infrastructure projects and, subject to the recommendation on route options and funding approval..."

Are there any changes to the route options or will it be the same route? How is the department planning on this recommendation when it comes to a fibre system? I believe that would be my final question. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The route that we had been looking at with Nuuk, Greenland, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans came back and said that “Because there are some sensitive areas within that area, you have to look for a new route.” The route is being researched for Nuuk, Greenland, to Nunavut, and the Kativik Regional Government’s EAUFON project, the phase one has already provided the cable installation, which will happen in the summer of 2021, and this will be service-ready for the first quarter in 2022. The second phase of the project is to go from Puvirnituk to Salluit, and this is not yet funded, but an application has been submitted to the CRTC; and we are very interested in the phase one project, which would have a connection point to Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We’re on infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance. To be Voted. \$118,499,000. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I had questions on the Nunavut *Building Code Act*. Thank you, minister for providing us some statistics on the *Building Code Act*. This is your letter to the committee on February 18, and it mentions the numbers of permits issued, site inspections and design plan reviews. Does the department have any plans to report these types of figures, report the activity under the *Building Code Act* in a regular manner? Would it be an annual summary of activity or something like that, or will it be up to committees to continually request the numbers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These building permits and the type of reports that Mr. Main is looking for; we can provide those to the members if requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask that the minister consider or discuss with her officials whether they can set up some reporting under this Act. The reason I ask is that this is the intersection of private businesses and the government and the building code. So I get concerned about things like the time it takes to process an application, impacts on private development, etcetera.

I'm particularly interested in the timeline, how long it takes the department to turn around a building permit application. (interpretation) That's my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Issuing a building permit can take typically 4-8 weeks, depending on the complexity of the project, and the proper submission of required documents by the applicant. There is that, that's a timeline for providing building permits to businesses.

Like I stated earlier, we can provide the details of those types of information for the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Has the minister received any correspondence from private businesses or chambers of commerce, etcetera, on the *Building Code Act* implementation? Specifically, I'm interested in what you're hearing from the private sector on how this *Building Code Act* is impacting their operations. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Through you, I'll ask Ms. Hourie to answer the member's question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Hourie.

Ms. Hourie: Thank you. I thank the member for the question. I know that while we were rolling out the *Building Code Act*, we had a number of conversations with a number of stakeholders to talk about what it was going to do and how it was going to affect them.

With regard to have we heard any concerns since and the types of concerns, I know that we have had some private individuals send us correspondence through the minister's office that we have responded to on the types, the exemptions, the sizes, what's included and what's not. The chamber of commerce, I don't believe, has asked us for any input or provided input to us. Other than that, I would have to ask my officials for more information than that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, any information you can provide in this area would be appreciated, further information.

In the letter just previous to that section, the minister's letter mentions the parking garage program. I believe it's a program that doesn't exist yet, but in terms of the timelines or the anticipated milestones for this parking garage program, I wonder if we could get an explanation of where the department is headed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently we have three communities identified for parking garages and it is Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, and Clyde River that are in the planning stage. These projects have entered planning stages in 2018-19. However, due to the large competing projects such as long-term care facilities, schools, addiction treatment centres, and limited resources, the three community parking garages have not started in the planning to date.

Also, the standards and criteria for municipal infrastructure are to be updated to reflect the anticipated future requirements for municipal facilities, especially parking garages and maintenance garages, as the only factor for sizing is population and it does not reflect the real factors that affect the number of parking garages required, such as length of roads, distance to the water and wastewater facilities.

It is hopeful that the update to the standards and criteria will begin in 2021 and it's anticipated that the business cases be completed prior to April 2022, but it's contingent on permissible travel to the communities due to COVID. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is a frustrating situation. My home community of Arviat is also high up on the list for parking garage space. There are three other communities ahead of Arviat in the line for parking garages to be built and the project doesn't seem to be going anywhere.

The minister's letter mentions that there are competing projects, so I read that as there is not enough money. There's not only not enough money; the standards and criteria thing is now complicating the parking garage needs. Who said that the standards and criteria need to be updated for parking garages? Because this sounds like another thing that is slowing this down. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you I will ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I thank the member for the question on the matter of parking garages. There are very few items that are as high a conversation point with municipal administrators than heated parking spaces for the municipal fleet.

The parking program, as it is referred to, was started with an assessment of the available space versus the existing and emerging space storage base requirements in each community; based on their existing fleet size and their growing fleet size. For everything from their heavy mobile equipment to their water and sewer trucks which of course need designated separate areas. As far as the prioritization of those capital projects that are the parking garages the department has completed that prioritization as the member has pointed out. It is listed. I think it has been shared previously.

There are a variety of competing projects things that you know we have discussed to the capital estimates process, and I think most of the members are aware that some of the communities have actually approached the department about creative solutions, to perhaps manage their projects in the smaller scale projects, like the construction of garages. We are meeting with those communities, and investigating those options within our capital portfolio. But that is the update on the actual garage parking program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any further questions, but I think this is something we have to keep in mind for future discussions on capital planning.

How is it that we don't have money to build parking garages for water service to support essential services, water and sewage, but somehow we found money for a \$200 million fibre project? I don't know the two projects side by side, the two needs; it's kind of very hard to wrap my head around how we have very basic needs drinking water that somehow can't find enough money. So it's just a comment, Mr. Chairman and I apologize for straying into capital. But it is the infrastructure division. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Main being just a comment. The next name on my list, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just got a couple questions. (interpretation) I don't know whether it was asked or not. In regards to homeownership and building your own home and I don't know whether this was brought up. But do you require permits in order to build your own home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, you do. Any buildings that are being built in communities you do require a building permit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. That brings up my next question. To get a building permit, what's the minimum size requirement? If I want to build an addition to my house, what is the minimum size to add to my building so I don't have to go through the building permit process, and does that cost me money to apply for the permit? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A building or occupancy permit is not required but may be obtained for accessory buildings not greater than 20 square metres in an area or non-structural alterations and repairs where the value of the construction is \$40,000 or less, like hunting camps, fishing camps and other small buildings used for traditional activities that are not being used for, or intended to be used for commercial purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) We have 25 communities and the only way to get into each one is by air. Where would the individual go in terms of applying for a permit if he wants to build a building? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The individuals would go to the hamlet in their community as they are the ones who administer building permits within their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. This will be my last question. In terms of if I want to change my fuel tank for my house, do I have to apply for permit too now? That has been a rumour that I have been hearing, or it's just hearsay. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, you don't need a building permit to replace your fuel tank. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on Infrastructure. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$118,499,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. J-8. Just an information item only, but you can ask questions on it. Petroleum Products Division. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for recognizing me. I just have two questions. The first one is: the 2016-17 annual report of the Petroleum Products Division was tabled on November 5, 2019. When the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2020 annual reports be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2017-18 annual report was tabled today, this afternoon in the House. As for the other documents, the department is working on [them] and I just want the members to know that there is no legislation to table Petroleum Products Division documents. We, the department, provide that information because we want to be open and transparent with the members and that is why we provide those annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a message to Mr. Main, if you want to ask questions you can wave at me so I can see you. Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm kind of surprised that there is no legislative act for the report of such a large amount of financial... . PPD is a public... . How would I say it? (interpretation) It is a public body. On page 217 of the business plan, (interpretation ends) Priorities 2020-21, under the fourth bullet, I have a question on it. "Petroleum Product Division's Point-of-Sale hardware (Intermec handheld devices) is approaching its end of life, and the Petroleum Products Division is actively working to identify suitable replacement hardware."

Are there any dollar costs to this? You are continuing to test and piloting new technologies such as remote electronic fuel inventory. I'm picturing it would be in Iqaluit, monitoring system, I could be wrong, and fluid management system to improve inventory management, stock control and accounting functions. What kind of costs are we looking at here, and what are Intermec Handheld Devices? My last question, Mr. Chairman. *Taima*.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment that as I stated earlier, these annual reports are not legislated. Should Bill 52 ever pass, which is the *Nunavut Petroleum Products Commission*, should that bill ever pass, they will be legislated to submit those annual reports. For the second question, through you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Hutchinson to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Hutchinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank the member for the question. The Intermec Handheld Device, it's the docking device that records all sales in the communities. Those are docked on the fuel delivery trucks, and at the point of sale at our gas station, for example in Rankin Inlet, inside the operator shelter, and that's where the sales data is transmitted back to our fluid management system at our contractor's offices, which in turn flows to PPD.

Intermec announced the end of life for those devices this year, and we have procured a few extra devices just to hold us over, and we are looking at replacement technology right now. Those devices are no longer available.

Other devices, such as Panasonic have the technology out there. In terms of cost, we don't have a solid figure right now, but we're expecting somewhere between \$300,000 and \$500,000 to replace those items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Next name on my list, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With regard to environmental site assessments and liabilities for contaminated sites, how many sites does the department account for, or currently have an outstanding liability on? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Hutchinson to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Hutchinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. In terms of PPD, I can't speak for GN-broad, but in terms of PPD, we do have some contaminated sites. We have liabilities recorded for those in our books. Most of these are relatively small spills, but there are some larger historic spills that we recognize liabilities on, and we are actively working on plans for remediation for those sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you. I am just asking about PPD, I'm not looking for a response in terms of the entire government. I wonder if we could get a little bit more specifics on the number of sites and the total amount of the liability. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, through you, I'll ask Mr. Hutchinson to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hutchinson, you get to smile for the camera.

Mr. Hutchinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The biggest liability that we have recognized right now is in Baker Lake and that's for a historic spill south of the tank farm...(inaudible)...towards the shore manifold. I don't have the exact number of that liability, but I know it's somewhere around \$800,000. We had another spill in Resolute Bay in 2011, a gasoline impact. Most of the work on that spill has been done. I think we're carrying around \$100,000 on our books for that and that's just for further monitoring of a remediation pile.

We do have a couple of other smaller liabilities, but the dollar value is not high enough to recognize on our books; we just kind of address them through our O&M throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that response. I wanted to ask, it's on the similar topic about contamination, but it's about the land farm that the Petroleum Products Division operates in Rankin Inlet. I wonder what my questions are. Is that used as a land farm for contaminated soil from across Nunavut or is it just specifically for Rankin Inlet in particular and whether the department has any plans for future land farm facilities in other communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know in Cambridge Bay there was a private company applying to the municipality for that type of remediation, but through you, I'll ask Mr. Hutchinson to give a detailed answer to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Hutchinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The land farm in Rankin Inlet was constructed, I think, about 2008 or '09, during the Rankin Inlet upgrade to our bulk fuel facility there. It was built at that time to handle the contaminated soils coming out of that site. It remained in the care and custody of CGS, not the PPD, up until about 2016. I think it was 2016 we had a spill on our pipeline.

There was quite a bit of remediated soil we needed to take out. We spoke with CGS, our own department, and kind of took over management of that site. We put all our soil into that area rather than shipping it south and saved quite a bit of money by doing that. We're continuing to operate the site today. We don't accept soils from other communities,

simply because I think the cost of shipping it would be prohibitive, but we do accept soils from private companies in Rankin Inlet at that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the background information and it's something I'm interested in because of specifically what Mr. Hutchinson mentioned, that it saved the government money and it's also useful to the private sector. It's incredibly expensive to take bags of contaminated soil and get them ready to put them on a ship and ship them down south just so they could be land-farmed somewhere else.

I guess my last question on the land farm is: have there been any requests or discussions in other communities with regard to this type of a service or program? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Seeley to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. There are a few communities in the territory that have investigated a very preliminary level of establishing their own land farms to manage contaminated soil. These are typically smaller scale operations dealing with leaks and heating fuel, smaller scale. We have had discussions with them but very preliminary at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My last line of questioning is regarding interaction with large customers, large industrial customers. In particular I'm interested in how the Petroleum Products Division works with Agnico Eagle. Obviously Agnico Eagle is active in Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, soon to be also in the Kitikmeot. It's my understanding that in the past Agnico Eagle has purchased fuel from the Petroleum Products Division.

Without it getting into too much detail, I'm interested in how that relationship works. Is the price paid per litre the same as somebody off the street who is filling up a five-gallon jug or is there a negotiation process where price discounts are applied? I'm just interested in that relationship. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are priced and if Agnico Eagle wanted to come and purchase fuel in Rankin Inlet, they would pay the same price as any resident within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently and historically, how much business has taken place? How much fuel has exchanged hands with this particular company? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I'll ask Mr. Hutchinson to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Hutchinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Agnico Eagle is a customer of the PPD's, not so much in Baker Lake. They have purchased small amounts of fuel from us there, but it's very nominal. In Rankin Inlet they were a much bigger customer over the past, let's say, five years, particularly as they started to expand their Meliadine site and before they had installed their own bulk fuel facility there at Itivia.

I don't have exact figures, but I know they were taking several millions of litres from us. I think the height might have been around 15 million litres a couple of years ago and after the completion of their site, it has dwindled down. We still have a dialogue with them. They did approach us this year asking us to store some fuel for them that they will purchase at the retail price from us this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the information. It's very interesting to hear the relationship there. Has the division ever expressed an interest in purchasing fuel from the mining company or would this be something that would not be permitted under procurement processes? Are your hands tied and you have to buy all your fuel from Woodward's? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the government has never approached them to purchase fuel. With historical data that the Petroleum Products Division has, the government can calculate exactly how many litres would be required for the year for that community. There is numbers that we have for the community, and how much capacity they can hold within their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Main. Thank you. Next name on my list: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to supplement a question asked by my colleague, Ms. Towtongie. The minister mentioned that the tabling of operations of the PPD is dependent upon the passing of Bill 54. Now, PPD is a public utility, and belongs to the people. Why is it that the tabling of the documents is required on the passing of this bill, as before the House? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, this Assembly is reviewing Bill 52 to make Petroleum Products Division a commission, and once those parameters are done, they'll be kind of like the Qulliq Energy Corporation, where like under their *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, they have to provide annual statements. Once the commission is underway and in place, like the Qulliq Energy Corporation, they will have to submit those documents to show their expenditures and their revenues to be reviewed by this House.

Right now, the Petroleum Products Division, within the Government of Nunavut; we're not required under any current legislation, but we provide them, as I stated earlier to be open and transparent with the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the response. (interpretation) I understand. (interpretation ends) On page 217 of the business plans, it says priorities 2021-22, and continues to plan and implement the corporate organizational model for the division, in anticipation of transition to a Nunavut Petroleum Products Commission.

My question is, what will this entail and how much is it going to cost? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Bill 52, the *Petroleum Products Commission Act* was scheduled for this sitting. The actual details of how much and what the commission will cost, those details will start to come out once the act has been passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials. You touched a bit about Baker Lake and historical fuel spills. I wonder if there are any updates on remediating that site. First question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Qulliq Energy Corporation has remediated the site, and it cost \$8.6 million. Within the area that is part of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the lot itself. As for outside of the lot, that area is Crown land, which is administered by the Government of Canada.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation has been working diligently with the Municipality of Baker Lake to assist them in trying to get those funds to remediate the rest of the area. We will continue to support them through their process, but because of COVID, there are so many things delayed but we will continue to work with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Okay. I'll just move on for now. Before the current site of the gas station and the tanks, there used to be at least three PPD tanks right in the middle of town, just up from Jessie Oonark. Are there any historical fuel sites there, and are there any plans in remediating that site? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those sites are going through an environmental assessment at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. The last name on my list: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been hearing so much about PPD the last few days I wasn't going to ask questions, but I will try a few.

I wonder if you can give us a sense of the dollar value of arrears that companies owe the PPD in the accounts receivable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just give me a second, I have that information.

The accounts receivables in the Petroleum Products Division as of November 30, as I had stated in the House, the total accounts receivable is \$38.3 million compared to last year, which is \$76.9 million. The bulk of the accounts receivable within Petroleum Products Division is: Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of this \$38 million, how much of this would you say is non-current, like it is say, more than 60 days old? Is there a dollar value to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you, I will ask Mr. Hutchinson to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Hutchinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. I do have a briefing note in front of me I'm looking at, but we don't have the detail on the aged accounts. How old that is; most of it, I will say is current. Some of the bigger entities like Qulliq Energy and Nunavut Housing, a lot of that is current debt and the November figures were following our resupply, where we had supplied bulk products to QEC. So, that figure is higher and they are paying that down, probably moving into December, January, et cetera. We can get information on the aged accounts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank him for that information; that is what I was trying to get. I was trying to figure out; as you had mentioned Qulliq and you mention the housing corporation, and I wanted to get a sense if these departments were way behind and slow in paying; but you say they are fairly current. So with that, I have no more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on this list. Go to page J-3. Community and Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$265,791,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that we have concluded the review of community and government services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for all the information they provide to me so that I can assist the members to understand Community and Government Services' operations and maintenance budget. I really appreciate all the hard work and I would like to thank Mr. Hutchinson for flying over here to Iqaluit to be with us here today.

I also am sorry to say that our Deputy Minister, Constance Hourie, this is her last sitting within the House and I would like to thank her for the time we have worked together and the support she has given me as my Deputy Minister for Community and Government Services, so please help me in giving her a hand.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you also from members. Thank you for answering all the questions. Sergeant-at-Arms, please excuse the guests. We will take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:11 and resumed at 17:18

Bill 59 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2021-2022 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back. I would now like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would like to ask Minister Joanasié: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if you will allow. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thanks again, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee. Today I have with me Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik. As well, we have Associate Deputy Minister Rebecca Hainnu, as well as Director of Corporate Services Ibrahim Suleiman. Not sitting at the witness table is Assistant Deputy Minister Melanie Abbott as well and if we need to swap out, I'll request that.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I am happy to appear before you at the committee today to discuss the 2021-22 proposed budget by the Department of Education. For the 2021-22 fiscal year, my department is requesting \$243,594,000. This reflects an increase of \$10,721,000 from the 2020-21 main estimates.

For 2021-22, the department is requesting \$4,055,000 to begin its three-year implementation of the revised student-educator ratio. This funding will allow the department to create 42 student support assistant positions in fiscal 2021-22.

Since the student-educator ratio was approved in 2011, the department has identified challenges and issues with the formula, (interpretation ends) such as and this includes:

1. **Resourcing not being based on school needs.** The current student-educator ratio does not take into consideration the minimum number of staff needed to operate a school and deliver a program. At times the student-educator ratio can under-resource the smallest schools.
2. **Fluctuations in level of resourcing.** The current student-educator ratio is based on student enrolment. As student enrolment changes, so too does the number of teaching staff in the school, which means the department must adjust its staffing figures annually. This creates challenges related to recruitment, housing, and relocating staff to address community staffing needs.
3. **Lack of consistency.** Currently the student-educator ratio does not account for the allocation of certain positions, including language specialists, student support assistants, or *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* (school community counsellors). Because there is no clear formula for allocating these positions, staff allocations are more susceptible to inequity and inconsistencies across schools and education districts.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in 2017 the department began reviewing the student-educator ratio to find ways to improve its support to schools. The department conducted jurisdictional scans, internal and external consultations, and extensive analyses to produce the revised formula. If approved, the revised student-educator ratio formula will be implemented over three fiscal years.

The department has prioritized the student support assistant's role to be the first position to be adjusted. This is because the need for these positions in schools is crucial to ensure students receive adequate support to enhance their learning experience in the classroom.

Mr. Chairman, all other school-based positions, including the Nunavut Teachers Association, will be adjusted in fiscal 2022-23. These positions include *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit*, secretaries, and custodians.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm working like my fellow Davidee right now.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Nunavut teacher education positions, such as principals, teachers, student support teachers, guidance counsellors, language specialists, and learning coaches, will be adjusted in fiscal 2023-24.

In addition, my department has requested \$1,990,000 in fiscal 2021-22 to meet the increasing costs of delivering busing services in the territory. The department's budget for bus services has remained at \$2,295,909 since fiscal 2014-15. Since that time the operating and maintenance costs for providing school bus services have increased by

\$3.85 million, or 267 percent, from \$2,296,000 in 2014-15 to \$6,146,000 in 2020-21. To date the department has funded those increased costs from within. This has resulted in reduced capacity to meet other departmental objectives in past years. The significant increase in costs in the current year, an increase of \$2.6 million from 2019-2020 to 2020-21, means covering the costs from within is no longer feasible.

Lastly, the Department of Education is also requesting \$4,676,000 to meet its funding obligations to ensure the current territory's student-educator ratio complies with the *Education Act*. The funds requested will be used to support 29.5 teaching positions that were hired in fiscal 2020-21. Due to the timing of the business planning cycle and requests for PYs, the department was required to fund the positions from within its approved 2020-21 budget.

Itsivautaaq, great strides are being made in our education system to expand services and supports available to our students, ensuring that the resources we do have are being used to maximum effect.

I thank this committee for its continued support of the Department of Education, which enables us to carry out our mandate. With sufficient resources, we will together provide the best education for our students.

I am happy to respond to questions, *Itsivautaaq*. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasié. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2021-22 budget and business plan of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed 2021-22 operations and maintenance budget is \$243.5 million, which represents an increase of almost \$11 million from its 2020-21 budget. The standing committee notes that the majority of this increase in funding will provide for additional staffing positions to meet student-educator ratio requirements as well as enhancements to busing services for students across the territory.

The department's revised formula for determining student-educator ratios in Nunavut schools has resulted in a welcome increase in resource allocations in the areas of staffing and support. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee to review his draft main estimates for 2021-22, he further indicated that amendments to the formula will also ensure that smaller schools will not lose resources as a result of fluctuating student enrolment numbers.

However, the standing committee notes that the department will now need to enhance its efforts to recruit and hire more teachers, principals, language specialists, student support

assistants, and other education staff in order to meet its mandate. Members encourage the minister and his officials to increase their efforts to attract more Nunavummiut to the teaching professions with an emphasis on recruiting high school graduates to pursue careers in education.

Members support the department's efforts to increase the level of flexibility in teacher training options with such initiatives as the new laddered approach to the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and the employment of fourth year teaching students to short-term teaching positions, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to an increase in the number of teaching positions, additional language specialists will need to be trained and hired to enable the department to meet the legislated timelines for bilingual education.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has been given to understand that the department is currently working on updating regulations to support the recently amended *Education Act*. In addition to ensuring that language of instruction guidelines are clearly established, the responsibilities, obligations, and expectations with respect to inclusive education must also be clearly defined as the department moves forward in implementing the newly amended legislation.

The department's budget for 2020-21 included additional funding towards inclusive education with the contracting of specialists to provide services in such areas as physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. Members supported this initiative and have expressed interest in receiving updates on how the results of diagnostic tests and psychological or physical assessments have impacted the department's plans for meeting its inclusive education obligations. The standing committee supports the department's collaboration with Nunavut Arctic College to provide additional training to education staff to address inclusive education needs across Nunavut's schools.

Mr. Chairman, a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly have addressed the need for additional high school programming which promotes career paths in the trades industries to meet current and future labour force opportunities in the territory. Members look forward to receiving information on any new pre-trades training initiatives which will be introduced in Nunavut schools in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was pleased to note that Education will continue to offer the Young Parents Stay Learning program, which enables parents in high school to continue their education by providing financial supports for child care. However, it has been noted that this program is only available during the school term and encourage the department to support young parents in accessing reliable childcare throughout the year.

Members of the standing committee continue to have concerns regarding the delivery of early childhood programs in Nunavut's communities and encourage the minister to move forward with his department's plans to review and amend or replace the current *Child Day Care Act*. While members recognize that not all communities are currently in a

position to deliver of full-time kindergarten given the space and staffing capacities in many schools, the committee encourages the minister to continue planning initiatives in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education assumed responsibility for the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program in 2019-2020. Members are in full support of this program which supports Nunavummiut who are pursuing post-secondary studies. The standing committee also supports alternative programs which encourage and assist adult Nunavummiut in furthering their educational or career opportunities including the Pathways to Adult Secondary School initiative.

That concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Any comments? Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing me. I am pleased to see the minister's comments about the busing budget, that it can't be funded internally as of this point. The cost of budgeting busing must be a major concern, but I am pleased to see that because the community that I represent, Chesterfield Inlet, badly needs a new bus. It's just a comment.

The second one, the student ratio formula will be implemented over three fiscal years. I'm wondering if it starts this year. I know Chesterfield Inlet has suffered due to this formula by not having enough teachers in the community. I was pleased to see that. I had hoped that it would have started this year and gradually start to be implemented over the next three years, but I am happy to see that it's a priority.

I wanted to say that I was pleased that the department conducted jurisdictional scans right across Canada, I assume, internal and external consultations. I hope to see the analysis and the formula successful across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister Joanasie and your officials, welcome. (interpretation ends) I know I can't see you, but you can see me.

This is an exciting year for your department, I would imagine. This is the first time that you have been in front of the committee with a new *Education Act* in place and approved. I know that was a long process and it's one that I think we all spent a lot of time on that new education bill. I'm hopeful that that new legislation will support your department and will help your department to deliver better education and support your employees better and lead to better outcomes for our students.

I just wanted to mention that I'm hopeful. There are some great things in the budget. The move towards the new student-educator ratio, I know we have been asking about that for years now, and that's great to see.

One area that I continue to have concerns about is attendance. It's very frustrating from where I sit. There are lots of money and lots of effort being poured into building better schools and managing the school system, but when we can't bridge that gap between the child that's in the community and getting into the actual school building on a regular basis. It's just so frustrating to see the attendance rates continue to be a challenge. From where I sit, I think I would support any initiative on the attendance front because it's just such a huge, long-standing issue that we have.

(interpretation) I have no more comments at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reading the opening comments of the minister on page 4, it speaks to the positions of community school counsellors.

Our colleague representing Arviat mentioned earlier that the *Education Act* was passed, thereby more school counsellors were becoming visible within the schools focussing on the need to further education amongst the students and to assist those in need.

Now, I believe this will have a tangible effect as that seems foreseeable, and further, within the chairman of the committee's comments on page 2, it talks about languages and the language of instruction, something the standing committee feels is extremely important within our schools. We have to preserve the Inuktitut language, and the importance stems from our history so it is important from yesterday and today, as well as tomorrow.

Now, due to the fact the Inuktitut language forms our cultural strength, which is a common refrain, something worthwhile to envision within our schools is to have a linguistic expert both in our communities, as well as to have the language spoken at home, and this can work even in the smaller communities.

This would showcase the formalization of the Inuktitut language and lead to the increase in the budget, as that will improve those services that will be provided, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to comment on that earlier, so thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Qirngnuq. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Akoak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 59 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

An Hon. Member (interpretation): Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for March 3:

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. Replies to Budget Address

11. Petitions
12. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 58
 - Bill 59
 - Bill 60
 - Bill 61
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 3, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:46*

