

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation; Minister
of Human Resources*

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(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

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(Netsilik)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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responsible for Suicide Prevention*

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*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
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Adam Lightstone
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(Arviat South)

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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
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*Minister of Culture and Heritage;
Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Nunavut Housing
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Craig Simailak
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Hon. George Hickee
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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
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 8, 2021**

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, 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. 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 morning...oh, good day. Before we proceed, can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Towtongie.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day. Thank you, Member Towtongie. Good day. I hope you had a safe weekend. The people of Arviat are in our thoughts. Let us also note, although you're probably aware, that I am very proud today is International Women's Day. Let us be proud of them.

>>*Applause*

Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. I'm sorry. Before we begin, this is a reminder for those who watch the televised proceedings that they will be able to observe the Order of Nunavut Investiture Ceremony for Peter Tapatai from Baker Lake this evening at 6 p.m. in our time zone.

>>*Applause*

That's a reminder. Continuing on. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 584 – 5(2): Congratulations to Shuvinai Mike

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my colleagues and Nunavummiut. Let's enjoy International Women's Day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today on International Women's Day, I am honoured to celebrate Shuvinai Mike, who retired this past January after 41 years of continuous service with the Government of Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, over the span of more than four decades, Ms. Mike dedicated her career to advocating for Inuit culture and language. During her years in education, she inspired the lives of many young learners and encouraged students to be grounded in their identity and proud of their language. She worked to see that Inuit students were not left behind.

Ms. Mike's continued devotion to the preservation of Inuit culture led her to employment at the Department of Culture and Heritage as the Director of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. She worked closely with Inuit elders, including those Inuit who served on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit, capturing their knowledge, and incorporating their voices into government policies, programs, and services.

Mr. Speaker, it was Ms. Mike's dream to see a policy framework put in place to ensure that government policies are rooted in the Inuit societal values' eight guiding principles. As a result, the *Iviqtippalliajut Framework* was created and tabled in the fall sitting of 2018. This will help ensure that government policies, programs, services, and legislation are rooted in *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Inuit societal values, fulfilling the commitment in the Inuunivut priority area of *Turaaqtavut*.

Mr. Speaker, this is Ms. Mike's legacy project. It reminds us to remain true to our values as Inuit, and for all public servants to continue their work in advocating for Inuit culture and language and fulfillment of the *Turaaqtavut* priorities. I thank Ms. Mike for all she has done for Nunavummiut, and on behalf of my colleagues in this House, I send our very best wishes for a happy retirement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 585 – 5(2): International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, MLAs, and a happy International Women's Day to all the women and girls in this Chamber as well as outside this Chamber.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has designated February 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The theme of this year's International Day of Women and Girls in Science is "Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19." Please join me in recognizing the hard work women who are leading around the world to understand and fight this pandemic.

Mr. Speaker and members, science is a part of a larger grouping of education and research field that also includes technology, engineering, and mathematics. Women are largely underrepresented in these fields, and I too would like to recognize every effort being made to bring women and girls into these areas of research, study, and work.

Mr. Speaker, if you will recall, last year the Kivalliq Campus hosted Arnauvugut: Women Exploring Trades Conference. This conference provided an opportunity for young women from across Nunavut to learn about the different construction and industrial trades programs offered at Sanatuliqsarvik. It is my hope that the participants of this conference keep Nunavut Arctic College in mind as they chart their future educational plans.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the women involved in Nunavut Arctic College specific programs that fall under this category, programs such as pre-health, nursing, environmental technology, and construction and industrial trades, but also the good work occurring at the college's Nunavut Research Institute. Thank you to the women, be it student, staff, or faculty. Your effort, example, and leadership are greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

I also invite all members to visit the college's website, where they will find an article highlighting three women who work in the science and technology field with the program. These women include:

- Jody Ningeocheak, who is the Kivalliq Mine Training Coordinator located in Kangiqsiniq, Rankin Inlet.
- Julia Landry, an instructor with the Environment Technology Program here in Iqaluit.
- Tara Vanderveer, an instructor with the Bachelor of Science in Arctic Nursing also in Iqaluit.

Again, members, this is just three of the outstanding women that make up Nunavut Arctic College's workforce in these fields. I would like to recognize them and all women for their contribution to science and technology in Nunavut. Thank you for serving as inspiration for our current and future college students. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 586 – 5(2): Birthing Centre and Midwife Services

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the residents of Rankin Inlet. My sympathies are with the residents of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has one of the highest birth rates by population in all of Canada. With more than 800 births between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, in-territory services for expecting and new mothers are essential to developing a healthy future for our children.

Mr. Speaker, providing midwifery services and safe birthing practices in Nunavut have always been a top priority for the Department of Health. Providing access to culturally appropriate maternity services closer to home strengthens families and prevents disruption caused by relocation for delivery. However, since the middle of last year the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre has been operating with reduced services due to a shortage of midwives. While obstetrical nurses continue to provide prenatal, postnatal and newborn care at the facility, expectant mothers assessed to have high-risk deliveries and who chose to give birth in Rankin Inlet have had to go to a hospital in the south to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the efforts of staff at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, we have worked to accommodate as many low- and medium-risk births from the Kivalliq to Iqaluit when capacity allows. It is important to Nunavummiut to stay in territory when feasible and avoid having to travel to the south and spend time in isolation with their newborns.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a permanent solution and the Department of Health remains committed to providing midwifery and maternal/newborn health services in Nunavut. My staff is working hard to find solutions to this nationwide problem as a shortage of midwives persists across Canada. We do this recognizing the need for solutions that are culturally appropriate and reflect Nunavut's realities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health also recognizes that giving birth can be a stressful time for new mothers and the COVID-19 pandemic has made things especially difficult. This makes it even more vital that we bring midwives and birthing services back to Rankin Inlet.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage Nunavummiut considering a career in health care to think about midwifery as an option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Justice, Mr. Hickes.

Minister's Statement 587 – 5(2): Family Violence Awareness Campaigns

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and colleagues of the legislature, today is a very important day as it is International Women's Day. We owe the growth and development of our territory to the sacrifices and influence of women, both in the past and present day. As a proud parent to three strong, intelligent and capable daughters, I understand the importance of providing a safe and supportive home and family life so that my children are able to pursue and achieve their dreams.

Mr. Speaker and members, this year's International Women's Day theme, #feministrecovery, recognizes that some women and children have been impacted more than others throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Here at home, family abuse remains a harmful part of the lives of too many Nunavummiut. Women and young children are especially impacted by these acts of violence.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of a territory-wide family abuse awareness campaign launched by the Law Society of Nunavut and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada. The campaign urges Nunavummiut to "Stand together to break the silence on family violence and abuse in Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker and members, the goal of this campaign is to empower Nunavummiut to recognize abusive situations and to increase public understanding of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and other legal options to address family violence. The campaign will reach out to survivors of family violence, service providers, and community members through information events, videos, posters, podcasts, plain language resources, radio interviews, and social media.

In addition, the Department of Justice is currently working to review the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which came into force in 2008 and was created to prevent and protect Nunavummiut from family abuse. While this Act has helped families across the territory in times of crisis, we must continue to review its effectiveness to provide the necessary supports to families and the victims of family abuse.

Mr. Speaker and members, I invite all Nunavummiut to provide their comments or feedback on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* by email, faia@gov.nu.ca, or by contacting 867-975-6195.

It is my hope that the success of these initiatives will positively impact the lives of Nunavummiut and continue to promote a peaceful and safe society.

To those who are experiencing family abuse, there is help available. Please reach out to your local community justice outreach worker or Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment to learn more about supports in your community. Your safety and well-being are our top concern. I invite all members to join me in working towards ending family abuse in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends)
Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 588 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Thank you for allowing me to catch my breath because I was at the event at the lounge.

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Today my wink is for all of the women all over the world.

Uqaqtitsijii, March 8 marks International Women's Day. This annual event is an opportunity to honour the cultural, social, political and economic achievements of women around the world.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is "Choose to Challenge." "The theme calls on all of us to challenge and call out gender bias and inequity. From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge."

Women of Nunavut are joining the celebration in solidarity to challenge inequality, call out bias, and question stereotypes by striking the #ChooseToChallenge pose, holding their hand high and pledging their commitment to challenge inequality.

Uqaqtitsijii, we remain guided by Piliriqatigiinni/Ikajuqtiigiinni, working together for a common cause. We continue to work together to achieve gender-equal workplaces, gender-equal boardrooms, gender equality in health and wealth, and a gender-equal government. We need to take collective action to remove barriers that negatively impact women's rights and gender equality.

Uqaqtitsijii, every day, women and girls come together and lead the growth and development of our communities. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council for championing this important work and providing a platform to empower women and girls.

I would also like to remind each of us that this year's International campaign theme, "Choose to Challenge," does not end on International Women's Day. We must be committed to and have a shared responsibility to achieving gender equality all year long. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Members' Statements.

>>No audio from 13:49 to 13:50

Speaker (interpretation): I believe it is working now. I would like to apologize, the wiring or whatever these things are tend to get in the way and cause problems.

Members' Statements. Before we begin, I would like to remind members that Member Mr. Qamaniq is not feeling well today, so he will be absent from the House. That's just for your information.

Continuing on. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 833 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Before I begin, I would just like to say a big hello and welcome to my family who is watching all the way from Ottawa today. Hi, Matthew. Hi, Tara.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on International Women's Day. As women, of course, it is nice to be recognized in our roles as wives, mothers, and sisters, and I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to my mom, who was the pillar of our home when I was growing up and went out of her way to help anyone in need, especially women and children.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that we acknowledge the steps and the successes that women have achieved independently and in addition to their family roles and responsibilities.

As a woman politician, I can certainly attest to the unique challenges that women face in the political arena. Since 1999 there have been 75 Members of the Legislative Assembly and only 13 of them have been women, and so we need to work on that, Mr. Speaker.

Today I would like to recognize my fellow women Members of the Legislative Assembly: MLA Towtongie.

>>Applause

Ministers Ehaloak...

>>Applause

...and Ms. Nakashuk and Ms. Sheutiapik.

>>Applause

We are 5 women out of 22 seats, and although this number is not representative of our population, I would note that it is almost double the number of women in previous Assemblies.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage more women to consider in Nunavut's upcoming election. Your voices need to be heard.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize our Member of Parliament, Ms. Mumilaaq Qaqqaq. As a young woman, she too has faced some unique challenges in the political world.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe that as women our roles, and we often handle many roles at one time, and our rights have achieved greater recognition over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. You can proceed, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my members.

Mr. Speaker, I do believe as women our roles, and we often handle many roles at one time, and our rights have achieved greater recognition over the years.

However, there is still work to be done to ensure that women feel more empowered, more recognized, and more equal in our society, whether it be in politics, business, the trades, or other professions, and much work is still to be done to ensure that women all across the world feel healthy and safe in their homes and on the streets.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many strong, talented and wise women in Nunavut who serve as excellent role models for the younger generations, and I certainly don't have enough time allotted to my member's statement to even begin to list some of their names. To each and every one of them, I extend my appreciation and admiration, the women leaders of today and tomorrow, but especially I would like to salute my mother.

Mom, you are my woman of the year every day. You gave me strength, wisdom, and the foundation for who I have become today. Although dementia has taken a toll on you, mom, it could never take away your love and the memories that we share in my heart. I will always carry you and your strength in me forever. Happy International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 834 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on International Women's Day. First of all, Pat Angnakak forgot herself, so let's applaud her as well.

>>Applause

Also, I recall Mila Kamingmalik-Aariaq, so I wish her a good day.

I rise today to speak about women, mothers, and especially my beloved grandchild Ipiqqaq Taylor Towtongie. Also, a person who is celebrating their birthday today, whom I am quite proud of is from Qainniq, but their ancestors occupied the Rankin Inlet area prior to it becoming a town; my elder sister-in-law Rosie Oolooyuk. I hope you have a wonderful birthday today, elder sister-in-law, especially on this International Women's Day.

Now, I want to also speak about this covering I am wearing, and in our dialect the shoulders are called *tui*, and if you don't understand it, if you are using an amauti to carry your baby, then you can move your baby to the front without taking them out by using the larger shoulder space to nurse them. In English, I call them (interpretation ends) air pockets (interpretation) as it was used by our ancestors to ensure their child would not have to be exposed to cold air to nurse them in the winter, so I am just using that example to help others understand.

Also, if you have any thoughts about why there is a back tail used in the clothing and why women craft them in that matter, I was informed by an elder the reason why it is shaped like a muzzle is to emulate the fertility of huskies and to have many children. This was understandable to me. Also, in the front, they would use that during labour to protect it against the snow and cold. I am so grateful for the skills of Inuit women.

Also, today I would like to acknowledge an elder who used to perform as a midwife, and she is very well known in our community and region. Annie Netser once related a story about an incident that occurred during labour where the nurses called her to come and the nurse was quite young.

Apparently the baby's head was in the breach position, and the feet were sticking out, and when she finally was able to let it out, she told the nurse, "Had you called me earlier, both the mother and the child would have lived, but unfortunately they called me too late," and the child died during labour. Annie Netser told me that while she was there, she asked the nurse...

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. I am sorry but your time has run out for your statement, and the member wishes to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? I do not hear any nays. Please proceed, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. She told me that since they called her too late, and because the nurse was so young and had no experience in delivering a child, she had to suddenly take on the role, and the friends of the patient were also too young.

Women, especially Inuit women who live in the Arctic, I can say are very well educated in this field, without ever having been in a classroom to learn, but all of their knowledge was gained outside of any classroom.

(interpretation ends) I would like to pay tribute and honour to each of the grandmothers, aunts, sisters. Our Inuit elders were not educated through classroom education. They were educated in the total cosmology and the universe in which they [inhabited.] Therefore, on International Women's Day, I stand in honour of these women. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 835 – 5(2): Granular Supplies

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy women's day for all Nunavummiut ladies.

I rise today to speak about community infrastructure needs in my constituency of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services has been working for a number of years with municipalities to develop integrated community sustainability plans.

Mr. Speaker, information concerning Gjoa Haven's infrastructure plans indicates that the municipality has identified the shortage of granular materials and the need for a new quarry as a top priority for the community.

Mr. Speaker, the community's current infrastructure plan indicates that "Gjoa Haven no longer has access to quarry material, which brings all development to a stop." We propose to construct a road, starting from the bridge located just past the existing quarry that is northwest of the community, which presently has gone past its useful life to the potential future quarry site located approximately 12 kilometres away.

This potential site is the nearest location that can supply aggregate to the community of Gjoa Haven, and it has enough there to be able to supply gravel to the community for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of projects planned for the Gjoa Haven community in the upcoming years, and all will need quality gravel. Not addressing this issue will result in a very negative effect with regard to all aspects of capacity building for this community.

Social, economic, health, and cultural capacity building will be unable to advance. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, to my colleagues.

Social, economic, health and cultural capacity building will be unable to advance if this resource is not secured as soon as possible since gravel is the primary resource used in all of our infrastructure projects. Who knows, the Minister of Health and as well as the Minister of Family Services will be planning a specific building in the near future, maybe next week. We need this gravel.

Mr. Speaker, this means that the community will be held hostage to the lack of this resource, no matter what infrastructure opportunities are presented to us. The hamlet is in desperate need of quality aggregate for all future developments.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support my community, and will have questions for the appropriate minister at the appropriate time on this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 836 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I feel for my fellow Arviarmiut.

On International Women's Day, I would like to make a statement about COVID-19 and the extra hardship that the women are going through. I recognize and thank the women who have been working hard to this day while we are combatting COVID-19 in Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, women are working around the home, they are nursing their peers, and also helping the elders at the centre, and giving support to the homecare residents. They are also involved in the people being vaccinated, and they are working very hard to educate their children on behalf of the Department of Education and Government of Nunavut. They are members of the board, they are staff at the school and there are still a lot more roles that I haven't covered. It is also important to note that they are working in stores, they are involved in the church, and they are involved in communications through the local radio station.

Mr. Speaker, there is a wide range of activities that they are involved in on a volunteer basis. They are always working around the house without getting paid and taking care of things that have to be done. I recognize the women, especially during this pandemic. They have given so much and saying "thank you" is not enough. My thanks will continue even at the end of this pandemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 837 – 5(2): Search and Rescue Boats in Constituency

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day, colleagues, the people of Amittuq, and Nunavummiut. I wish to acknowledge women, and in particular, my wife and her mother. Though I no longer have a mother, I would like to say “thank you” to the women who named their children after my mother.

I rise today to recognize and to honour the people in my riding, firstly, the Municipality of Igloolik. Emergency services is very important in Nunavut. The Municipality of Igloolik is going to be purchasing a boat for emergencies that they will be able to utilize this summer. Again, in Hall Beach, the hamlet council is also trying to acquire a boat to be used for emergency services. I give them my full support.

I congratulate the Hamlet of Igloolik and also the community of Hall Beach, in order to provide better services to their communities.

To the women of world, have a good day and please do all that you can to help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 838 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Netsilik. I rise today as it is International Women's Day and I would like to pay my tribute. Women do have a life like men, women are strong. They might not have the muscles of a man, but they are stronger in mind and heart, and unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, these women have made a great contribution, and we see them sitting around the House who are working very hard. Even though they're working hard, they do it on a volunteer basis, but women are strong in mind, heart, and unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my colleagues today on International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 839 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is International Women's Day. The Bible has a verse written by Solomon, Chapter 31, which I'll read in English. My wife and I have been married for 41 years, and it was our anniversary. We had a great day, and I would like to read this verse.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, *The Book of Proverbs* talks about women and the need to honour them. In *The Book of Proverbs*, Mr. Speaker, Chapter 31, Verse 10 says "An excellent wife, who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and she will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not harm all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. She considers a field and buys it. With the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard. She dresses herself with friends, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable; her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hands to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet." Polar bear skins too.

>>*Laughter*

"She makes bed coverings for herself. Her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them. She delivers sashes to the merchants. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my statement. (interpretation) Thank you.

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. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) "She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and she does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her. Many women have done excellently, but you surpassed them all. Charm is deceitful, beauty is vain, but a woman who feels the lord is to be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands and let her works praise her in the gates." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 840 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to join my colleagues in acknowledging International Women's Day, a day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in Nunavut and around the world. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak about a book written by one of my constituents. The author is Francesca Mandeya and the title of the book is *Mother Behold Thy Son*. The book addresses the issue of gender equality through harnessing the maternal power to strengthen boys' and men's commitment to work towards equality in the home and addressing toxic masculinity. The book is also about teaching women and girls to exercise their voice as equals and disrupt the culture of silence.

Ms. Mandeya shares her stories and strongly believes that an important part of the healing process is to speak about the traumas that are faced by women. "If we ever wish to make change, we must speak the truth," she states. Protesting against gender equality and violence is one aspect, but action is required to make societal change, and that action that is required to address gender equality must begin at the family level, which is an important theme in her book.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to teaching my boys to be self-sufficient and break gender roles. I wish for them to become men who cook, clean, and recognize toxic masculinity. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that "Boys will be boys." This must no longer be acceptable. Mr. Speaker, my boys will be accountable and be held responsible for their actions.

We know that Canada and Nunavut have made progress, but there is much room for improvement to achieve equal opportunity for women in today's society.

I would also like to celebrate some of today's Inuit women in leadership who continue to make societal, economic and cultural as well as political contributions: of course our very own Ms. Angnakak, Ms. Towtongie, Ms. Nakashuk, Ms. Sheutiapik, and Ms. Ehaloak, as well as Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, Aluki Kotierk... .

Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I have a few more names on the list and I would like to request to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank everyone for allowing me to conclude my statement.

Our very own MLAs in this room as well as our Commissioner, Ms. Eva Aariak, as well as our MP, Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, and Aluki Kotierk, Yvonne Niego, Sheila Kolola, Teresa Hughes, Kathy Okpik, and Becky Mearns, as well as others such as Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Madeleine Allakariallak, as well as our councillor, Sheila Flaherty, and the lifelong advocate for the vulnerable, Deputy Major Janet Brewster.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mirror Ms. Angnakak's sentiment: I encourage all of Nunavut's strong women to take the step and make the decision to run and become leaders in our communities, and even join us here in the Assembly. One day I hope to see gender parity. It is possible and there is no reason why there should not be.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are many strong women who continue to work hard to build their territory and the list could go on and on, and I apologize if I left anyone out.

Again, I just wanted to recognize International Women's Day and all the strong women in this room and hope that one day we will see more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 841 – 5(2): Thinking of Arviarmiut

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some words to convey to my fellow residents of Arviat, as residents have been facing challenging times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The residents were just added another burden, as a family just lost a loved one but I know they will sympathize, and I too share your sense of loss.

And, when you lose a loved one out of the blue it hurts, although losing a family member at any time is very painful, but a sudden death is even harder to deal with, and I believe it is more painful, so I share in your sadness at this time residents of Arviat.

Nonetheless, I also know that residents of Arviat are very loving and sympathetic, and I know the family who lost a loved one will be consoled and loved, and will share their grief. Although I am unable to be in Arviat, my thoughts are with the community and I want them to know they are in my thoughts and after grieving, it will make it a bit easier for the residents of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 842 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy international day for all the women and I am very proud that my wife and I are surrounded by five beautiful, wonderful daughters, and I hope today that I can speak for one of them today.

Mr. Speaker, as you might know, just last month our family once again lost a loved one. This time it was extremely harder on all of us because it was a teen suicide. I am very emotional about it, as it has a huge impact on all of us surrounded by our lovely family.

My 16-year-old daughter was close to her and instead of thinking of what the next homework will be or what she will be doing after she graduates, today she is grieving and she does not want people to be in that same situation.

Social media has a very strong influence with our young population, which is why today I want to repeat what she posted on Facebook to help others and help herself and help me. these are the words from Minnie:

“As much as you don't want to believe it, someone is rooting for you to keep going. Don't give up. Nunavut's suicide rate is already so high and every day it gets worse. Losing you will make an impact on everything around you.”

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 843 – 5(2): Recent Closure of Sailivik in Pangnirtung

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also am very grateful for the powerful words spoken today as it is palpable.

Today I want to announce something that residents of Pangnirtung have clamoured for and which they have fought hard for. This facility is called Sailivik, and residents often attend events locally. On December 16, 2020 the building was finally opened, although the community spent many years trying to realize their dream. Today it is finally open and people can drop by, and it is open to the public during the day as well as in the evening.

There are events held at the facility, such as alcohol and drug counselling, counselling for people with gambling additions and people who need to go to a safe place. Elders are

able to attend the centre, as well as those who wish to quit drinking and women also meet as a group for healing purposes and well-being. They have a trained counsellor in the centre.

In the evenings, young people are able to go there to watch movies. Women who are pregnant are also able to meet there and they have cooking courses in the evenings. Married couples are able to attend for counselling.

We are really proud of this centre that we wanted for a long time and we are very grateful to the sponsors through the Department of Family Services and NTI, as well a federal funding for First Nations that will be applied over the next three years of operations.

People will also use the centre to take people out on the land. This has been a long time coming and is now running today. It is very much appreciated in the community and we would like to acknowledge those who have supported and sponsored the centre to date. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 844 – 5(2): International Women's Day

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My thoughts are with those in Arviat. I send my love.

Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to pay tribute to all the women on this special day; International Women's Day, especially to my mother who 40 years ago had committed suicide for whatever reason. I forgive you. I just want to read a poem which hit me very hard and means a lot, I hope to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, "We all move forward when we recognize how resilient and striking the women are around us." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Let us proceed. Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) I apologize. I did not see those. We will return to Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 1179 – 5(2): Model of Care

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I love my sisters who are not here with me.

(interpretation ends) I have Return to Oral Question 1179 – 5(2), asked by the Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut on March 1, 2021 concerning the model of care. This return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into the *Hansard* for public record and for distribution to all members.

Question:

Can the minister clearly explain how his department decided which recommendations from the Model of Care Report would be followed up on and how other recommendations were determined to be not feasible or inapplicable to Nunavut?

Response:

Mr. Speaker, the member recently raised a question regarding the model of care. The term “Model of Care” refers to the delivery of care in the most effective manner with the right resources. It requires a mix of clinicians, support staff, and paraprofessionals working as a team to provide the best care possible for each patient and community. It takes into consideration the unique circumstances of a health system, the resources available, referral services, available technology and equipment, and the community’s needs and capacity.

The Department of Health commissioned the report in 2017 to provide an opinion on how a model of care for health centres should look in Nunavut. Many of the recommendations were applicable to Nunavut and are consistently being addressed. The department has progressed in the areas of Inuit employment, including the mental health paraprofessionals project, and in specialists’ services and virtual care.

The report’s focus was limited to community health centres and excluded significant portions of the health system in Nunavut. The Department of Health continues to upgrade and modernize health care services throughout the territory, and in doing so uses a holistic approach to capture regional health centres, physician services, out-of-territory care, and cultural considerations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

Return to Oral Question 1180 – 5(2): Minor Electrical Work in Communities

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to supplement my response given to the Member for Aivilik on Monday, March 1, when he asked about the minor electrical work in communities.

Mr. Speaker, due to the hazards involved in working with energized electrical systems and working at heights, a power line technician certification is required before an employee repairs the power distribution wires, including secondary drop wires feeding customers' homes. In addition, a special licence is required to operate trucks with aerial devices. These requirements are like the requirements of other utilities in Canada. Qulliq Energy Corporation employees in communities outside of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay are not certified to perform distribution line work and do not have the special licence required to operate special utility trucks.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation does allow power plant operators to perform some limited, non-hazardous work. On an annual basis the Qulliq Energy Corporation provides training to power plant operators to strengthen their knowledge of health and safety best practices, work protection code, maintenance troubleshooting, and other related duties. That said, the actual hands-on power line work will only be performed by certified power line technicians due to safety considerations involved.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation would like to remind all Nunavummiut that only qualified individuals should climb power poles or attempt repairs on any part of the power distribution system. The safety of our workers and communities is the Qulliq Energy Corporation's highest priority. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm returning to an oral question asked by Ms. Angnakak to the Minister of Family Services, numbered 1187 – 5(2), dated Tuesday, March 2, 2021, and the subject was supports for social workers.

Mr. Speaker, my reply to the oral question is lengthy and I would ask that it be entered into the record as read.

Question 1:

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?

Response 1:

The Department of Family Services ensures its services and supports are respectful of Nunavut's history, language, and culture. Nunavut's *Child and Family Services Act* recognizes the importance of Inuit societal values. Departmental staff continue to ensure improvement in incorporating Inuit societal values by consulting with stakeholders, such

as community members and Inuit organizations. As well, our child welfare manual contains standards of practice that respect and incorporate Inuit societal values.

Inuit societal values are integrated in the services that community social services workers provide to Nunavut children and youth. A community social services worker will work with the family to provide necessary interventions in order for the family home to be safe for everyone. From receiving referral to investigating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to ongoing family services, community social services workers are guided by Inuit societal values. One of the examples where Inuit societal values is evident is a process of plan of care.

If a child is at risk of abuse and/or neglect, the community social services worker will meet with the family and any other family members that family identifies as a support and/or potential caregivers.

Community social services workers work with the child/children and the family, focusing on the strengths within the family, with the intention of ensuring that child/children remain within the family. The opinion and solutions of the immediate and extended family is always respected. The family is always involved in making decisions and planning for children.

Community social services workers and their supervisors receive training, coaching, and mentoring in child protection that is rooted in Inuit societal values. Community social services worker core training has Inuit societal values embedded throughout it. Community social services workers can be authorized to work in Nunavut, but cultural training is a requirement to being appointed as a community social services worker.

Each standard in the manual identifies *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that is applied when practising the standard. NU child protection practices are based around the concept of maintaining family connections while focusing on the best interests of the child or youth.

Question 2:

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, when they themselves need assistance, counselling, or some respite to prevent burnout?

Response 2:

The Department of Family Services takes the well-being of its frontline staff very seriously. There are a number of systems in place to address staff burnout before it becomes an issue and over the past year the department has begun work on implementing a peer support program. Current supports include but are not limited to:

- Family services staff are provided access to a variety of free and helpful online psychological health and safety resources that can be accessed at their own pace.

- Every GN employee is able to access the 1-800 Employee and Family Assistance Program (1-800-663-1142).
- Every supervisor and manager has regular supervision meetings with their staff. Supervisors and managers are also available for consultation and check-ins daily.
- Regular division check-ins once a week for all supervisors, managers, and directors to address stressors.
- Each region has weekly team meetings. Each supervisor arranges for the team meeting with their immediate team. Team building, motivation, workload, stress and turnover, and strategies to manage on an ongoing basis are all topics of discussion at these team meetings.
- Biannual cultural days, as well as tea and bannock breaks on a monthly basis.
- Once a month lunch and learn sessions are held that deal with a variety of topics, including self-care.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns... . Thank you. They are entered immediately as part of the *Hansard*. That's what I wanted to indicate.

(interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Return to Oral Question 1197 – 5(2): Funding for Home Renovations

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 3 the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Cathy Towtongie, asked about funding for home renovations. I would like to table my return to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to an oral question from March 3, 2021 regarding a letter of response to the Chesterfield Inlet Housing Association from the Nunavut Housing Corporation on aging public housing units in the community.

I have confirmed that the Chesterfield Inlet Housing Association's board of directors did receive the Nunavut Housing Corporation's letter of response to their question on housing allocations in their community. The letter is dated October 14, 2020.

Regrettably it appears the Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet did not receive a copy of this letter as was intended, which may have led to misunderstanding on whether the housing association received it.

As stated in the response, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has initiated an independent review of its housing construction methodology to improve how it prioritizes public housing construction in all communities. The age of housing stock is an important factor in prioritizing construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1218 – 5(2): Housing Needs for Victims of Domestic Violence

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Arviat, I am with you and you are in my thoughts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

As we are considering housing issues, we must also consider situations where there is violence in the home, which leads to mental health issues. These kinds of situations occur in all communities and are also a concern of my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, these situations should concern our government and the Government of Canada because it is a serious issue which affect so many Nunavummiut and so many Canadians.

Can the minister elaborate on how her department deals with concerns relating to families and family members who are trapped in overcrowded homes where there is domestic violence? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking about this issue. Sometimes people hide their difficulties and we rarely voice our concerns. However, when you raise questions like this, our department tries to resolve the issues. I, too, can start discussing this issue with the federal government, especially when members ask questions about this issue. At lunchtime I was at a meeting, and we know that violence is growing here in Nunavut.

With that being the case, our employees often have challenging caseloads, but yes, there are meetings to discuss resolutions to the cases, such as which relative they are able to temporarily stay with. This is usually something that is offered to our clients. Also, if I use Iqaluit as an example, if a family agrees and they have to go the shelter, then they are housed temporarily as well. This allows them more options to think about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A concern has been raised by my constituents in Taloyoak regarding overcrowding in small units. When a situation of domestic violence occurs, some individuals are made homeless and need to find a place to sleep or stay.

Can the minister describe the process that is followed when her departmental staff are called in to address a domestic violence situation, which is often the result of severe overcrowding? (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 asking those questions. (interpretation ends) In every community, our department, with the people on the ground, meet with, if the RCMP is involved, there are our caseworkers, maybe sometimes Health is involved because there may be abuse; they all get together and actually decide what would be the best approach per situation. It varies from there. It could be, maybe there is no shelter, maybe there's a safe home. If not, I know in the past, if it's extreme where they've had to actually fly someone in from the community to a shelter. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for being able to respond to that question. (interpretation ends) As Members of the Legislative Assembly representing smaller communities, we are personally very aware of the housing shortages and homelessness in our constituencies.

Will the minister commit to working with her colleague, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation and with the federal government to allocate funding and programs to reduce overcrowding in Nunavut's smaller communities, including Taloyoak? (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. Yes, I agree. I agree with that because we have had three ministers involved in discussions about housing issues, during our time as the government here. As a matter of fact, there was one time I was partaking in a call to the federal minister, but in my role as the Minister responsible for Homelessness, and we tried to negotiate faithfully and it is obvious that I will put this matter forth to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1219 – 5(2): Supporting Women’s Participation in Sport

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I proceed I would like to say “hello” to my husband. I love you. To my constituents, I say “hello.”

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Participation in sport is an important way to promote healthy lifestyles, focus on fitness and discipline, as well as developing leadership skills.

As it is International Women’s Day, can the minister provide an update on what kinds of initiatives and programs are offered through her department’s Sport and Recreation Division to encourage more girls and women to take part in sports and sporting activities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. I also want to thank her for her acknowledgement in her member’s statement earlier.

Through the Department of Community and Government Services, we work with municipalities and different organizations, all organizations within our communities and we encourage and support the women and the young girls to participate in different sporting activities.

The Sport and Recreation Division works closely with these individuals to help them if they want to apply for funding to go to sporting activities or sporting events; our department is always there to help them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Across Canada girls and women are underrepresented in Canadian sport as athletes, coaches, leaders, and decision makers, and sadly it seems that fewer girls and women are participating in sport compared to 10 to 15 years ago.

Can the minister tell us whether her department keeps track of the numbers of girls and women involved in organized sports across Nunavut and whether there is any indication that the number is increasing or decreasing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for her question. Definitely our Sport and Recreation Division does keep track of the number of women's sports in our territory and encourages those women, more and more women, young and old, to come out and participate in community activities. At this time the level of detail that she is looking for regarding how many we track, I don't have that level of information, but I can get the information for the member. 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 thank the minister for her commitment to getting back to us with that information.

Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day, but efforts to promote the participation of girls and women in sport and other arenas should be ongoing every day throughout the year. There are many skills, including leadership and resilience, developed through sport that can be carried over into the other aspects of our lives, like our education and careers.

Will the minister commit to working with her officials to establish and fund more dedicated programs to specifically promote greater involvement of girls and women in recreational and competitive sports across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I thank the member for her question. The Sport and Recreation Division within Community and Government Services is always encouraging women to come and participate, and should a group of women want to start, let's say, a broomball association within their community and need to find ways to find out how they can become a broomball team or a volleyball team or a soccer team, our department is always willing to help them and assist them on how they can create their sports and recreation group so that they can fundraise and so that they can go on tournaments.

I can definitely say that the department works very closely with all organizations within our sporting in Nunavut, and I hope that more and more girls who are watching this are able to say, "Yes, we would like to try to create maybe a broomball team." Maybe every community should at least try to. We have our arenas. I mean, I played broomball as a young girl and it was fun. I can't commit, but I will say that I will work with the department to ensure that our municipalities, especially our young girls, get involved in sports and recreation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1220 – 5(2): Granular Supplies

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I noted in my member's statement, the Department of Community and Government Services has been working with municipalities for a number of years to develop integrated community sustainability plans.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Municipality of Gjoa Haven has identified the shortage of granular materials as being a major barrier to community infrastructure development. Mr. Speaker, the municipality has located a potential new quarry site.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what specific resources and assistance her department is providing to the Municipality of Gjoa Haven to develop a new quarry site? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. When it comes to integrated community sustainability plans with the municipalities, our department does work with the municipalities on what they would like to see in their future community plans and what type of infrastructure they're looking for.

For the granular activity that the member is asking about in his constituency of Gjoa Haven, I don't have that level of information, but I can definitely check into it and I'm sure that our department, the Department of Community and Government Services, is always willing to work with the municipalities to ensure that their needs are met or their needs are addressed so that we can work together to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will be aware, information published by her department indicates that the current Quarry Administration Agreement between her department and the Municipality of Gjoa Haven was signed in October 2010, over a decade ago. It's kind of old now. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on the status of work to develop an updated agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can assure the member that I will work with the department to review this agreement and work to ensure that it's updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former mayor, the minister will fully understand, appreciate, and recognize the importance of all municipalities having access to high-quality sources of granular material. Mr. Speaker, can the minister update the House today on what work her department is currently undertaking to develop a granular access and management strategy for the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The granular information that the member is looking for, I don't have that level of information, but I can definitely find out and get the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Question 1221 – 5(2): Income Assistance Reforms

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good day” to my fellow women in Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

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

Mr. Speaker, in June 2016 the government tabled its “Reducing Dependence” document which included a number of reforms to income assistance which were under consideration.

In October [2019] I asked a question in this House regarding the status of one of those reforms which proposed changing the age of eligibility for income assistance from 18 to 19. The minister of the day, which was over 16 months ago, indicated that this reform was being considered at that time.

Can the minister provide an update on the age at which income assistance recipients can begin to apply for benefits and, if it hasn't yet been changed to 19, why not? 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 for asking that question. I have read this. I have read how it has changed things, but I just don't remember if the age was changed. I will look into it and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it very disheartening to hear from our youth who should be using their final years of high school to get the best out of their education so that they can move on to productive career choices, saying instead that they can't wait until they turn 18 so that they can sign on for income assistance.

Can the minister tell us how her department works with high schools and high school counsellors to encourage youth to work towards productive career choices and futures and to discourage them from turning to income assistance as their first choice? 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 for asking these questions. There is a big meeting every year called a career fair, and the government brings displays all the kinds of the jobs that are available. We take part in that as Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that income assistance is intended to be an option of last resort for those who have no other options in terms of jobs, training, or further education. I do appreciate that providing support and benefits is absolutely necessary to ensure that Nunavut residents are not left destitute. However, I am concerned that many of our youth find it so easy to access income assistance without trying to consider other options.

Will the minister commit to considering changing the age of eligibility for income assistance at the earliest opportunity and implementing it before the end of this current school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking those questions. (interpretation ends) Firstly, to clarify just to mention that through our department we do fund Skills Canada, so we are quite involved in encouraging our youth.

I also mention that in our most recent funding asks was, or back before COVID, was stations. Family Services actually has our career development in our same work station so that we're hoping to move them from income support to career development and that's why they're in the same work environment. We have different divisions within our department, but those two work very closely and we also are working on individuals having a station so they actually can do job searches within our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1222 – 5(2): COVID-19 Testing Across Nunavut

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen from the government's recent press releases that more cases of COVID-19 have been identified. I am glad that the government is keeping on top of this situation and keeping us informed.

However, while the press releases keep us up-to-date on the status of those few communities where COVID-19 has been detected, there has been very little information on what testing and monitoring is being conducted in Nunavut's other communities.

Can the minister provide an update on how often COVID testing is being conducted in Nunavut's other communities where the coronavirus has not yet been detected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. The department is doing tests across Nunavut pretty much on a daily basis. We have done over 9,000 tests across Nunavut. Around 3,500 of them are in those communities that had COVID, the over 5,000 have been tests outside of those communities. It is done when there are people in Nunavut that may have symptoms of COVID, if they have a cold or can't taste things, if they have any signs of those, then testing is done at that time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that some communities see more traffic than others. Essential workers, medical travellers and Nunavummiut who choose to travel for personal reasons are all passing through the main travel hubs, and some individuals travel further afield

into other communities. It is important to know that steps are being taken to ensure that any cases of COVID-19 will be detected as soon as possible.

Can the minister tell us today whether his department conducts any random testing throughout the territory on individuals who want to be tested even if they show no symptoms of COVID-19, and if so, to what extent is random testing being done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any numbers in terms of people going up and asking for a random test simply for the fact that it involves more human resources, adequate training to give these tests, and also the fact that we have a supply of this testing equipment, and how far we go to randomize that testing, we have to keep those intact. To my knowledge, I'm not aware of any. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a concern that if one case of COVID-19 slips through the cracks undetected, it could set off another wave of infections and lockdowns and threaten the stability that we are trying to achieve.

Will the minister commit to reporting regularly on the levels of testing for COVID-19 that is being conducted across all of Nunavut's communities and not just reporting on those communities which have been affected to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very fine line that the COVID response team has to walk, in terms of what kind of information is going out there. Is it going out there because people just want to know, or is it going out there to help people to be informed? There is that line, and I work with the COVID response team, and they are the ones who decide in terms of what kind of information is going out there, what is it going out there for, and what we are trying to achieve by putting out that information. Sometimes putting out information could end up pinpointing situations in the small communities. We will discuss this through the team and if there are any advances I will be more than happy to share it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1223 – 5(2): Shelters for Communities

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

It is sad that there are incidents of family violence in the communities, or in any relationship. Last year I was pleased when the minister informed the House that there were four shelters being funded by the territorial government. In particular, the Department of Family Services was already at the planning stages and they were going to build shelters in four communities.

My first question to the Minister of Family Services is: can the minister update the House about what is happening with the four new shelters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, yes, there were four communities identified in our last budget process that were approved, which were Gjoa Haven, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, and Pond Inlet. Currently our department has been working with all four, but right now two communities, to my understanding, are very close to being in the process of opening. At this point two out of the four right now are very close to opening. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. How many more shelters will be built for Nunavummiut? Is there anything in writing or do you have any statistics compiled that you can use to decide how many more shelters are required to be built in our communities? Are we looking at the regions, or what kinds of plans do you have for the future? That is what I wanted to ask. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have not seen or been a part of any discussion on a big picture plan to build these shelters in every community because at the end of the day, I wish we didn't have it. I wish we did not have to build them.

Unfortunately I can't say that we have a plan to build one in every community, but we certainly look at which communities need them the most and work with those communities that have come to our department and work with them, and if we need to, we assist in proposal writing. I always use Cambridge Bay as an example; there was underutilized infrastructure, and it was refurbished to a different need.

At this point, unfortunately, I have not seen a strategic plan on building this infrastructure in every community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister that we have to build shelters, but we have to talk about it. I know that it would be better if we didn't have to build them, but then again, there is family violence in our territory, and it puts hardship on everyone on a daily basis and that's why I'm bringing it up today.

(interpretation ends) My last question for the minister is: what is the first step for a community that is interested in establishing a shelter, what is the very first step that community members should focus on to get the process started to work towards a shelter in their community? (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) I thank you for that question. The first step is to reach out to the team, the family violence team, to sit down and have a conversation, and they will work with you to reach out to the hamlet and to the communities to see if... but to start that application process, to start that dialogue, to let us know that you are interested in such a facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1224 – 5(2): Commercial and Institutional Power Producers Program

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. They concern the commercial and institutional power producers program.

As the minister will recall, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has made an application to the minister on May 11, 2020 requesting approval for an acceptable pricing structure and rates that regulate the Qulliq Energy Corporation regarding the purchase of electricity from commercial and institutional power producer suppliers.

The application was subsequently referred by the minister to the Utility Rates Review Council for consideration. Mr. Speaker, I will quote from the Utility Rates Review Council's report to the minister on October 6, 2020, in which the council recommended, "That the application for approval of option 3 as described in the application and information responses be denied at this time."

Mr. Speaker, the minister subsequently wrote a letter of instruction to the Qulliq Energy Corporation on November 4, 2020 in which the minister stated that she would grant the Qulliq Energy Corporation permission to purchase electricity from commercial and institutional power producers at the avoided cost of diesel as proposed in the May 11, 2020 application, the application in which the Utility Rates Review Council had denied.

Last week, in the minister's statement, she had announced the launch of the commercial and institutional power producer program at the rates that were proposed in the application.

My first question to the minister is: is this a temporary measure? As I noted in the policy, the Commercial Institutional Power Producer Policy has a sunset date of March 1, 2026, in five years' time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The member is correct with the dates he just mentioned.

I just want to say that the Qulliq Energy Corporation resubmitted the Commercial and Institutional Power Producers program, which was approved by cabinet on February 25, 2021. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is proposing to pay power producers the avoided cost of fuel, as the member mentioned, and following the utility rates review recommendations, the Qulliq Energy Corporation will engage in rate regulation consultants to provide recommendations on alternative energy pricing options.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation anticipates having the price structure analysis report in the spring of 2021. Depending on the report findings, the Qulliq Energy Corporation may submit a new pricing proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. That follows up with my next question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation recently issued a request for proposals last month for a specialized pricing structure for renewable energy suppliers, as the minister had indicated.

Mr. Speaker, the request for proposals, which closes later this month, indicates that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is "seeking proponents with experience in cost of service methodology and electrical utility regulatory proceedings to prepare a pricing strategy for renewable energy suppliers."

Mr. Speaker, what the minister just indicated is that upon closing of this RFP and receiving the report, the QEC may submit another application to the Utility Rates Review

Council based upon the report. I would like to ask the minister why the Qulliq Energy Corporation “may” issue another request to the Utility Rates Review Council and not “shall.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Until those rates are reviewed and a pricing structure has been done, the Qulliq Energy Corporation will definitely look at the pricing structure and with the information that we receive, as I stated earlier, a report will come out and that report will indicate what type of options the Qulliq Energy Corporation may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question for the minister is, the request for proposals requires a draft report to be provided within 60 days of the commencement of services and a final report within 30 days after the QEC’s review of that draft. I would like to ask: will the minister commit to ensuring that the final report is provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and made public through the tabling in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. Once that document is provided to cabinet in a draft form and the cabinet has reviewed, I can’t commit at this time, but once the document has been reviewed by this government, we will work to ensure that we do table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1225 – 5(2): Medical Travel and COVID-19

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health regarding the isolation hubs in Ottawa, Edmonton, all the isolation hubs.

(interpretation) I’m sorry, interpreters, but I’ll be speaking Inuktitut.

Now, another concern that is raised from time to time amongst my constituents relates to the patients who travel down for medical appointments. Once they have completed their

appointment perhaps after two days in the south, and after their appointment, they are provided a letter of release to travel home.

However, what causes extra time is when patients are in the isolation hubs or hotels. I wonder if patients who are just picking up prescriptions or are just down for a single appointment can be provided documentation, as most patients get a release letter at Larga.

Once their appointment is done, the paperwork is completed and I wonder if the Department of Health can improve this for patients who only spent a couple of days before their appointment, which leads to the 14-day isolation period. I wonder if your department can use this doctor's release form to speed it up. How can the Minister respond to that question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. No, it cannot be done in that manner. Patients who have attended their appointment may have come into contact with other patients who may have COVID-19. However, there is a procedure followed. Our chief medical officer works with medical practitioners, as well as the medical travel workers in Nunavut.

Some patients who are deemed fine, such as the example you just used for a patient down for two days, as there are also cases where patients go to Ottawa from Nunavut, then they go to the isolation hub, and once they go for their appointment donning all the proper safety gear, the doctor would do his medical checkup.

Once it is over, the patient can return to the isolation hub and be released to go home, and we have had patients who are fast-tracked, as every situation is not the same. They can request paperwork from our chief medical officer to determine if they are eligible. However, the other people who were in the public areas would have to follow the isolation period, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaermerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of cases like that, but it was a concern expressed from my constituents. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that, yeah, it's not unfortunate, but let me try and work with the Minister here.

We know that in the isolation hub after every three days they are given a test. Perhaps I'm saying with the rapid testing every individual is tested after three days. Can the minister confirm for the House... ? I wonder if these rapid testing results can be used for those patients residing in the isolation hub as a low risk to decrease their isolation time seven to ten days if they tested negative. Does the Department of Health have a plan to

make this as an option or to use this as a leverage to decrease their isolation hubs in terms of moneywise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The health of Nunavummiut is of utmost importance moneywise or not.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward with the COVID testing and as we go forward with the vaccines across Nunavut, our COVID team and our Chief Public Health Officer is constantly monitoring where we can make advances and where we would maybe begin to decrease some isolation stays. Those things are constantly in the discussions, and I'm hopeful that in the coming weeks or months that we could see some changes because of those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am happy to hear you will look into that matter. Now, I want to ask about the funding. Actually I did not ask about it. What or how much has the Department of Health or our government spent now on this protocol to have isolation hubs? How much funding has this cost our government to have these hubs? That is what I wish to know, so I ask how much has been spent? That is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have spent quite a bit of dollars, and it's unfortunate that I do not have the figures with me at the moment, but upon getting the information, I will provide that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1226 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is getting more alarming nowadays to hear someone cough out of the blue in a crowded spot, right?

>>*Laughter*

Largely due to the fact someone may suspect you have COVID-19 if you cough, and trepidation seems to be the reason.

>>*Laughter*

Now it really is almost everyone's attitude.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation about this issue. Last fall, I had questions for the minister about the breakwater or marine infrastructure in our communities, specifically more of the small craft harbours type of infrastructure.

I asked questions in the fall about the (interpretation ends) Comprehensive Marine Infrastructure Scoping Study (interpretation) that was to be undertaken for Coral Harbour and Naujaat in the fall. I asked about this infrastructure and the answer was that due to COVID-19, it had been deferred.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can provide an update on this initiative and what the status is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is currently still under review and it did slow down because of pandemic measures, but it is moving ahead. We are hopeful that we will have completed a study by summer of 2021. However, I would like to say in advance, though we want to visit the communities, we won't be able to visit all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He is saying they won't be visiting all the communities they slotted. What about the communities that expected them after discussions? How many communities then will not be visited? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually I don't have any written information currently. However, what I can speak to is that these projects will commence in all of the communities identified as being part of that study, and I will also be receiving a summary report on the needs of the communities, and I am expecting that report in the summer season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Information published by the minister's department indicates that this project is intended to result in a comprehensive report that includes "recommendations for marine infrastructure projects in all-scope communities" which "will allow the Department of Economic Development

and Transportation to advance projects for funding consideration.” Can the minister indicate the approximate budget that has been set aside to fund project requests that are identified through this study? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This project, the current study that we’re conducting, is valued at \$2,185,000. What we’re hoping to do is to use the scoping document to solicit to Transport Canada, which has about \$94.3 million remaining on their safety and equipment, basic marine infrastructure, under their Oceans Protection Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1227 – 5(2): Caribou Management

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I proceed, I would just like to recognize a very powerful and influential woman in my life, my very own *aana*, Lena Pedersen. As you know, she was the first female MLA voted in 1970.

>>*Applause*

Happy International Women’s Day, *aana*.

Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the issue of caribou management in the Kitikmeot.

As the minister will recall, I have raised a number of concerns in the Legislative Assembly regarding the Dolphin and Union Caribou herd and I have emphasized the importance of listening to local hunters and trappers organizations on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, a new *Dolphin and Union Caribou Herd Total Allowable Harvest Order* was published in the February 2021 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*. This order follows a decision made by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The new order provides that the total allowable harvest from the population of the herd will increase from 42 to 105 caribou. For the record, can the minister confirm the date on which the new number comes into effect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The normal time that new tags are issued is July 1 every year, but we had an interim total allowable harvest and then the new regulations came out for the 105 and to the best of my knowledge, it would be effective

immediately, as soon as the regulations were passed and gazetted. I'm not 100 percent sure on that, but to the best of my knowledge, that's what it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the new *Dolphin and Union Caribou Herd Total Allowable Harvest Order* indicates that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has not yet made a decision respecting the basic needs level for the Dolphin and Union Caribou herd. Can the minister clarify the timeline for when this decision will be made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, I don't think there are any basic needs level for any species that have been set in Nunavut yet. We have always been working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, most of the total allowable harvest of polar bear, muskox, and in this case, caribou are given to the regional wildlife board to give out to the appropriate communities, and then the community's hunters and trappers organization can decide if the total allowable harvest that has been given to them will be given only to beneficiaries or whether they will give any tags out to non-beneficiaries, for example, polar bears.

Currently right now the total allowable harvest is the basic needs level and the hunters and trappers organizations dictate on how that basic needs level, which is the total allowable harvest...there are no basic needs levels, but if the total allowable harvest is given to the HTO, the hunters and trappers organizations can dictate where that total allowable harvest will go. 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. As the minister will recall, his department recently issued a tender for a Dolphin and Union Caribou herd collaring project. The tender was awarded a few weeks ago and the work is scheduled to begin in April. The tender documents indicate that the capture crew "will be required to carry with them a Hunters' and Trappers' Organization observer for the purposes of monitoring the capture process." Can the minister confirm if the Kugluktuk HTO has been contacted on this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we have any wildlife-related projects, in this example it was the collaring of caribou, but also in surveys, whether it be

polar bear or caribou, we always include a co-management team and it's normal practice for us when doable that we will include a local member that the hunters and trappers organization has picked.

I cannot confirm whether the Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization has been contacted with this collaring project yet, but as the member stated, there will be a person from the hunters and trappers organization as part of this project and I can assure the member that that's our normal practice for any wildlife surveys or projects as long as it's feasible and practicable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members will note that the time for question period has expired and we will proceed to Item 7. Written Questions. No. 7. Written Questions. No. 8. Returns to Written Questions. No. 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Petitions. Responses to Petitions. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 363 – 5(2): Correspondence to the Chair of the Chesterfield Inlet Housing Association

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table a letter of response to the chairperson of the Chesterfield Inlet Housing Association regarding aging units in Chesterfield Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akoak.

Tabled Document 364 – 5(2): Correspondence from the Mayor of Gjoa Haven

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to table today a copy of correspondence that I recently received from the very hard-working Mayor of Gjoa Haven, Ms. Megan Porter.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor's correspondence highlights a number of community infrastructure priorities that have been identified by the municipality, and I encourage all members to review this important information with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Lightstone.

Tabled Document 365 – 5(2): Yukon Affordable Housing Initiative

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling a document describing the Government of Yukon's Affordable Housing Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is such an innovative and unique concept that would greatly benefit in addressing Nunavut's housing shortage in a number of ways. Currently government investment in housing in Nunavut represents the majority of the capital spent in any given year, and this would help alleviate the crisis that we're in by creating new public housing, affordable housing, and expand the housing continuum and allowing people space to get out of public housing and move up into an independent lifestyle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Motions. First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Motion 110 – 5(2): Early Adjournment

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Gjoa Haven, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will proceed to Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 9:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 58
 - Bill 59
 - Bill 60
 - Bill 61
 - Bill 62
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Before we adjourn, I invite all members to join me here in the Chamber at 6 p.m. for the Order of Nunavut Investiture Ceremony for Mr. Peter Tapatai.

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 9, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:44*

