

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Aggu)

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(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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(Gjoa Haven)

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(Rankin Inlet South)

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responsible for Suicide Prevention*

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Minister responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
Compensation Commission*

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(Aivilik)

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

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

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, June 7, 2021**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:29*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Allan Rumbolt): Before we begin, I will ask Mr. Keyootak if he could lead us in prayer, please. Mr. Keyootak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you. Before we begin, I would like to inform members that Speaker Quassa, Mr. Lightstone, and Mr. Qamaniq are away from the proceedings today due to illness.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 645 – 5(2): Welcome to Denmark's New Honorary Consul to Nunavut

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Navarana Beveridge as Denmark's new Honorary Consul to Nunavut, appointed by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

Nunavut and Greenland are more than just circumpolar neighbours. Our relationship is built on important connections, including family, history, culture, language, and geography. We share many challenges and equally many incredible opportunities. Our paths of political and economic development are similar as we strive to develop the Arctic for the benefit of our people and our environment.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Beveridge grew up in Greenland and has made Nunavut her home for the past 22 years. She is familiar with our territory and has strong experience with Inuit organizations in both management and social policy. She currently is the director of

administration at the Qikiqtani Inuit Association in Iqaluit. She is also fluent in Kalaallisut, Danish, English, and Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, as Denmark's Honorary Consul, Ms. Beveridge will help foster great collaborative opportunities between Nunavut and Greenland.

We are proud and excited about Ms. Beveridge's appointment. Together our regions are shaping a future of cooperation and opportunity in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Savikataaq. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Hickey.

Minister's Statement 646 – 5(2): WSCC Resources for Returning to Work after Injury

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to share some guidance and resources from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to help employers and workers better support a safe return to work for employees recovering from injury.

A Return-to-Work program is a proactive plan that outlines what processes an employer has in place to help injured employees get back to suitable work as soon as it's medically safe. Employers are responsible for their workplace's injury reporting process, identifying suitable work, and implementing, monitoring, and adjusting their Return-to-Work program.

Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has recently updated a Code of Practice that gives practical guidance to employers about their legal responsibilities and an Employers' Guide to Return to Work with sample plans and templates to help with starting, implementing, and evaluating a program.

The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is currently gathering feedback from employers on some of the practical challenges and barriers they experience. This will help to shape the development of future resources and support offered.

Mr. Speaker, with the right support from employers, health care providers, and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, most people can return to work quickly, even if their duties have changed or they are in a different role, while they recover.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage every employer to develop a return-to-work plan for their injured workers, and encourage all workers to talk to their health care providers, their employers, and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to actively participate in their recovery plan and return to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Hickee. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 647 – 5(2): Release of the MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQA+ National Action Plan

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) *Unnusakut*, Mr. Speaker and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago yesterday, on Friday I would have read my statement, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, known as MMIWG, presented its final report. This report shared with all Canadians the experiences of violence against indigenous women, girls, and two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual plus (2SLGBTQQA+) people and the impacts on families and survivors. The national inquiry's guiding principle is "Our Women and Girls Are Sacred." This principle supports First Nations, Métis and Inuit women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people to reclaim their power and place.

On the second anniversary, the 2021 National Action Plan was released. It honours and is inclusive of all indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQA+ people. This plan is the first step on the path of ending all forms of gender- and race-based violence. It is a living and evergreen document that will be adapted and changed over time as new initiatives and needs are identified. The next step is to develop an implementation plan with short-, medium- and long-term priorities and responsibilities of each action, as well as milestones and resources.

The Federal Pathway is the Government of Canada's contribution to the national action plan in response to the final report on MMIWG and was launched Friday morning. All provinces, territories, including the Government of Nunavut, national indigenous organizations and sub-working groups, including the Inuit sub-working group, have contributed submissions to the national action plan.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Government of Nunavut is uniquely placed to advance the national inquiry's actions for justice over time, especially the Inuit-specific ones, because its programs, policies, and initiatives are envisioned and implemented for a population that is 85 percent Inuit. Moreover, under the *Nunavut Agreement* Article 32, the Nunavut government is required to include Inuit and Inuit organizations in the development and design of social and cultural policies, programs, and services and endeavour to reflect Inuit goals and objectives in these policies, programs, and services.

The issue of missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ people, and specifically domestic violence in Nunavut are so very important to me and to our government. A full and meaningful response will take time and require human resource and financial capacity, political will, and not only a whole-of-government

approach but a territory-wide approach that includes all levels of government, agencies, and Inuit organizations.

Uqaqtitsijii, we honour all those who have shared their stories with us as part of the national inquiry process. I call on all Nunavummiut to step up, speak out, and do their part to end domestic and gender-based violence in our territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Joanasie.

Minister's Statement 648 – 5(2): Nunavut Educator Wins 2021 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Nunavut's educators on receiving a special award. I would like to congratulate Inuksuk High School music teacher Dr. Mary Piercey-Lewis for winning the 2021 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year at the 50th JUNO Awards ceremonies this past weekend.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the importance of arts education for Nunavut students cannot be overstated. This award underscores that importance by recognizing a teacher of the year for music education. We know our students benefit from music, dance and fine arts instruction and we are privileged to have an educator like Dr. Piercey-Lewis supporting our students.

For the past two decades, Dr. Piercey-Lewis has been working to ensure that Inuit culture continues to thrive through music. She has created school music programs, collected and transcribed countless hours of traditional Inuit music, and worked with elders to ensure that Inuktut songs are not lost.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, her work with the Inuksuk Drum Dancers in Iqaluit, with students at John Arnalukjuaq School in Arviat, and with other educators throughout Nunavut is to be celebrated. Dr. Piercey-Lewis has helped develop a generation of young people who are confident, resilient, and grounded in Inuit identity, culture, and tradition thanks to a strong music education.

On behalf of all the Nunavummiut who have been taught by Dr. Piercey-Lewis, I am proud to have this amazing teacher in our education system. (interpretation ends)
Qujannamiik, ma'na, koana.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 649 – 5(2): Long-term Care

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am excited to announce that later this year we will begin construction of the new 24-bed long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet. The goal is to have the facility completed and ready for residents by the fall of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant milestone toward enhancing care for Nunavut's elders. This facility will allow Nunavut to provide a broader range of advanced care to our clients, eventually expanding to Nunavummiut with complex needs such as dementia.

Mr. Speaker, an additional 24 beds will help us give Nunavummiut the opportunity to age closer to home, where family members can be actively involved in an elder's care and support. It will also allow clients more opportunity to age in the land they love and within the culture they know.

Mr. Speaker, the facility and all that it entails must be reflective of and responsive to the culture, values, history, and traditions of Nunavummiut and Inuit specifically. Our model's intent is that the facility design invokes a strong sense of pride that recognizes and celebrates our culture.

Mr. Speaker, the new long-term care centre illustrates the Department of Health's commitments to providing a high level of care to Nunavummiut who require ongoing support. Our resident focused approach and homelike atmosphere will create a place where our elders can age in safety, with dignity and close to their family and friends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Ehaloak.

Minister's Statement 650 – 5(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Baker Lake Headquarters Project

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to all of my colleagues and those who are watching.

Uqaqtii, I am pleased to provide an update on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's new head office build in Baker Lake. The project is now underway after being delayed by a year due to tendering issues and COVID-19 public health restrictions. Preparatory ground and piling work has begun and actual construction will commence in July with the arrival of the season's sealift. Contractors scheduled to work on site will be required to follow

public health measures for the protection and safety of the community against COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation currently does not have a dedicated office in Baker Lake. The construction of this building will provide adequate space to accommodate all administration staff in one location. Presently there are approximately 45 employees working in three different offices in the community. With the anticipated completion in August 2022, all staff will be under one roof with upgraded boardroom and training spaces.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is looking forward to creating a unified and organized work environment for Baker Lake staff. By increasing operational efficiencies and improving employee satisfaction, the corporation can better serve their valued customers across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Justice, Minister Hickes.

Minister's Statement 651 – 5(2): Recognizing Justice Employees during COVID-19

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize some outstanding work from our employees at the Department of Justice during the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

I would first like to recognize the Office of the Sheriff and the deputy sheriffs who have gone above and beyond their normal duties to help keep us safe from COVID-19.

Iqalumiut may have seen our sheriffs in town patrolling and responding to complaints to ensure that people are following the public health orders. Our sheriffs have filled a vital role to assist with COVID-19 enforcement and have shown great dedication and professionalism in carrying out these duties. I wish to thank them for all their hard work,

I would also like to recognize the hard work of the managers, caseworkers, and medical staff at our Iqaluit correctional facilities. Not only have they shown exemplary service during emergencies, such as the fire at Baffin Correctional Centre and the relocation of inmates; they have also shown their dedication and hard work in keeping everyone safe during a COVID-19 outbreak here in Iqaluit. The outbreak of COVID-19 in a correctional centre is a very dangerous situation. Our staff have shown grace, professionalism, and perseverance under pressure to implement contingency plans, stop the spread, and care for any clients affected.

The first half of 2021 has been extremely busy for all of our staff, and this has not been an easy year for frontline workers such as the sheriffs and correctional staff. I would like

to express my sincere appreciation for all of their hard work and the service they provide to help ensure the safety and well-being of all Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Netser.

>>*No audio*

We seem to be having some audio trouble with the Zoom participants. Yes, I think we can hear. Let's go back to Mr. Netser; I think it's okay now.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 930 – 5(2): Supporting Smaller Communities

Mr. Netser: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I had to unmute the other mute button, but let me try it again.

(interpretation) I send my regards to the residents of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to make a statement today about the importance of supporting our territory's smaller communities, and I will follow up on some of the points that I raised last week.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly who represents two non-decentralized communities, I am very much aware of the challenges that we continue to face.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to deciding where to locate new facilities and major capital projects, it appears that the government's first instinct continues to be to put them in our regional centres without giving full consideration to the potential of building them in our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I pointed out last week that I fought hard in a previous government to ensure that our cultural school was located in Clyde River, and we need more of that thinking today.

Mr. Speaker, members who represent smaller communities have to fight hard to ensure that their communities receive a fair allocation of such investments as school buses and municipal infrastructure.

We also have to fight hard to ensure that our approved projects do not fall off the government's plans, and I'm thinking here of a couple of tenders that were cancelled for a number of projects that we have seen recently, including the renovations of my school here in Coral Harbour, the Sakku School, and public housing units in Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to programs and services, it appears that the first instinct continues to be designed for the needs of the resources of the major centres.

At the last sitting, I raised a perfect example of this mentality: the government's absurd new policy that prevents routine home oil heating installation to proceed without the government's inspection. This is ludicrous.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of approach might work in the capital city, but it won't work in other small communities such as Grise Fiord, Kugaaruk, or Nauyasat, for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude today by strongly urging the government to reflect on the frustrations that we as members have been expressing. Nunavut is more than just three regional communities. We have 25 communities in total that are in need and we need to show them that they all are important to us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Pedersen.

Member's Statement 931 – 5(2): Caring for Our Elders

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You're looking good today by the way, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express my strong and sincere caring for our elders, the elders of Kugluktuk, the elders of the Kitikmeot, and the elders from all across Nunavut.

Last week I supported my colleague's motion to delete the funding for the Kitikmeot Long Term Care Center in the upcoming fiscal year. I stand by this decision today. I'm using my vote as I was taught to do so by my elders, and I will continue to do so until my constituents say otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are following the advice and wisdom passed onto us by our elders who have told us that we need to scrutinize proposed plans and projects in order to make good decisions. Our elders tell us to rely on our education and our experience to form our opinions. We are not told to fold under the difference of opinion. We are not told to agree with others just because they tell us their option is the only good choice.

Mr. Speaker, during our debate on Bill 72 last week, it was implied that the lack of support for part of the bill reflected a lack of care for our elders. Nothing could be farther from the truth. A short time ago the community of Kugluktuk had a plan to build and operate a long-term care facility for our elders. A lot of work and effort went into that plan, which was a reflection of the level of love and care for our elders and a strong desire to support them at home in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Kugluktuk reached out to the government to collaborate and partner in the delivery of long-term care for our elders and the government would not take it any further. The government denied us that opportunity to provide more long-term care within our territory, in a facility that would have been on its way to being built by now.

Mr. Speaker, we have been elected to positions where we occasionally need to make hard decisions. Not everyone will be happy with us, but we make those hard decisions because we do care.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier in my statement, I'm here to make my voice heard and I will continue to do so until my constituents say otherwise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 932 – 5(2): Caring for Our Elders

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to also talk about the elders, just as I have constantly been doing since I got elected. They were my priority as I began my career as an MLA and they will continue to be my priority until our last day.

Mr. Speaker, during that session a motion was made to rescind that funding under the capital budget and without the support the allegations were already flying, and I want to quote from the *Blues*, as the government opposed this change proposed by regular members, and that we don't support elders. To quote the minister, "I did not want to rise. However, due to the motion, I now have some words to deliver."

Mr. Speaker, ever since I was elected to this position, my first statement revolved around our elders, and that I would advocate for their benefits unerringly, even when I see unwelcoming expressions across the floor, even when I sweat nonstop, I will continue to advocate passionately for them.

I will keep doing so for the following reasons: their lives were full of hardships, yet they are wise and even if we think we may be defeating them, our elders know the score and will not fall for our trickery. They too have power coursing through their veins. I believe this government has to hear the elders, but no! Where am I going with these elders' concerns?

In my constituency of Amittuq, my home community of Sanirajak has no elders facilities, although there is an elders facility in Igloolik. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say this to all Nunavummiut: your MLAs would work hard to represent not just our elders but generally the residents of Nunavut in debating job opportunities, providing teamwork and

partnerships, in providing services for constituents, examples of what I say the government is paying lip service to especially when we review capital funds.

As my colleagues, the Member for Kugluktuk and the Member for Netsilik, have constantly said, it is only the larger decentralized communities benefitting from infrastructure projects being built, yet when smaller communities submit their own priorities, all we hear from this government is “wait, wait and wait some more.”

That is not how any government ought to operate, and if we wish to ensure that Nunavut is the best territory possible, equitable distribution is required.

Mr. Speaker, I am not finished my statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his member’s statement. Are there any nays? There being none, please continue, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for agreeing to allow me to proceed without any nays.

Now, to reiterate; our precious elders approach our offices to convey their concerns when we as members are required to provide assistance. The words I am relaying did not originate from me, as I have espoused on occasion. The concerns came directly from elders.

Now, in saying that, yes, I am pleased that the minister stated that a facility will be constructed in Rankin Inlet, with the construction phase to commence this summer, and I am happy for him. I wonder how many elders will still have to remain in care in Ottawa’s facility even after it is built. Those are the kinds of questions that will be asked.

Mr. Speaker, I really wanted to eloquently make my statement, but as soon as I start speaking, the words just seem to disappear causing me to seem confused, and this is more so when I have prepared a statement formally to express my thoughts.

Nonetheless, the issues I voice are ones where constituents have stated that yes, I am indeed representing their concerns, and maybe I am too hard on myself as I belittle myself it seems. I can certainly go on and on if needed; however, I want to limit myself as I know my colleagues will also want to put their thoughts forward on this matter.

We are trying to support our leadership and we are certainly working hard to represent our elders, and all Nunavummiut for that matter, not just one community, but all communities! I will leave it at that and when we reach the appropriate agenda item, I will have questions to direct to the Minister of Health on the elders’ long-term care facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. [Member] for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Member's Statement 933 – 5(2): Supporting Nunavut-based Elder Care

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Congratulations to Navarana Beveridge. Good for you, Navarana.

I, too, want to speak about elder care. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight when it comes to members' support of Nunavut-based elder care. Mr. Speaker, last week in this House the Minister of Health suggested that members who voted to delete funding from the proposed interim capital budget were delaying the return of our elders to Nunavut.

In fact, it was suggested that by deleting the funding from the budget, members were not in support of elders coming home to Nunavut at all.

Mr. Speaker, as the ministers, many of whom were also member of the previous Assembly, should recall I have staunch advocate and supporter of the Iqaluit-based Sailivik Society, which developed a comprehensive proposal to provide dementia care, hospice care, and assisted living opportunities for Nunavut elders in the community of Iqaluit.

The Sailivik Society was made up of volunteers from the community; entities which provided support, including the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Nunavut Construction Corporation, the City of Iqaluit, and others.

Mr. Speaker, a complete business plan was written by an expert who is very knowledgeable in operating non-profit long-term care facilities. Elders from the community were involved, and they chose a lot provided by the City of Iqaluit that was worth \$1 million. Funding for development was secured through the Nunavut Construction Corporation. The Sailivik board would have been responsible for the staffing at this proposed elders' long-term care, providing more than 70 jobs in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. I see the clock is ticking down.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her member's statement. Are there any nays? Seeing none. Please continue, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it was a truly collaborative effort. The volunteer board met frequently to draw up the preliminary plan, from how the building would look, and the design of the interior, to anticipated costs for service delivery; as the Minister of Health, in his

statement, just stated, a facility that is “reflective of and responsive to the culture, values, history, and traditions of Nunavummiut and Inuit specifically.”

Mr. Speaker, the proposal was presented to the departments of Health and Community and Government Services as well as to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. There was no response to date, absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, our government contributed nothing but some historical data on elder services. The proposal went nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Minister of Health stated, “I wish we could have done this sooner,” and he said, “. . .but we can’t have them right now.” I’m glad he recognizes that we need these facilities right now.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that if it had been adequately supported by our government, the Sailivik Society’s plan would have seen a Nunavut-based long-term care and dementia facility opened by now, in 2018, and that was three years ago. We would have had our elders back in Nunavut and our government would not have had to expend any large amounts of capital dollars.

Mr. Speaker, to hear our ministers argue that voting to approve the motion to delete funding for the design of a long-term care facility means that members do not support Nunavut-based elder care is a low blow. It is a slap in the face to all of those volunteers and organizations and community elders who came together to propose a facility that could have met elder care needs in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it was the government which did not support plans to provide Nunavut-based elder care when options were made available. Now the government wants the Members of the Legislative Assembly to simply approve future capital expenditures on their say so.

Where is the supporting documentation? There is no seniors strategy to show what role these long-term care facilities will play in ensuring that elders from all Nunavut communities will have their needs taken into consideration across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, if the government had taken the opportunity that such organizations as the Sailivik Society had provided, Nunavut’s dementia care patients and others would be right here in Nunavut right now.

Mr. Speaker, our government should consider the different options which have been brought forward to address the need for Nunavut-based elder care before accusing members of their lack of support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Member's Statement 934 – 5(2): Lack of Resources at Larga Baffin

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the medical facilities attended by medical travel patients who originate from the Baffin region. As I have no familiarity with the facilities in the Kitikmeot or the Kivalliq, therefore based on my knowledge of the Baffin facility in Ottawa, the Larga facility houses medical patients who are sometimes in Ottawa for extended periods of time.

Mr. Speaker, as I just stated, some patients stay for extended periods, while other patients don't need to stay for very long. These patients that stay longer are sometimes in Ottawa for several months, while other patients spend years getting medical treatments, and most patients stay at the Larga facility with some requiring escorts as well. Some escorts also end up staying for extended periods.

Mr. Speaker, the boarding home doesn't have any activities other than sitting or lounging around, and many patients are waiting there endlessly, whiling away their time. Further, some patients are largely unilingual. They usually have escorts in those cases, as well as patients undergoing surgical procedures.

Also, some patients end up passing away and many escorts and families awaiting their loved ones lose them during their treatment while they are still in Ottawa, leaving family members behind, especially ones without overseers or counsellors, since Larga does not offer any services such as a coroner or religious person who could advise the loved ones of their loss.

Even just small flowers or something would help the family members at least think of some other issues, especially during their time of loss. Some patients are very piteous in their sorrow as there is not even a counsellor to offer words of advice, nor is there anything culturally appropriate to ease their sense of loss.

There are not even any announcements about patients to other patients staying at Larga when a fellow patient has passed on. My time is up. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his member's statement. Are there any nays? Seeing none, please continue, Mr. Keyootak.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that more service positions are needed there. As we all know, this facility will continue to be used as residents will always encounter health related issues, and when you notice family members who are inconsolable and suffering

from their sense of loss, you feel empathy as there are no counsellors available there, and not enough supporting services such as life counsellors.

This is becoming more disconcerting to me, especially when I compare it to previous health contracts or facilities that provided health care for Inuit, as in the past, patients would be gone for long periods, and perhaps more so during the tuberculosis epidemic.

Some patients were gone for years, while others were gone for long periods, but not years. Some of the patients who spent years in the south receiving health care would return with additional skills they learned while at the sanatoriums. Some patients became adept at carving, while others became skilled accordionists, and others became fluent in English.

Obviously, there was more to the treatments back in the day when more thought was given to providing time consuming skills or lessons, and this was applied in cases where patients stayed for longer periods.

Today, our medical patients are primarily just dumped at the facility, with months of boring lounging around time, and there are not even sewing rooms for the women as no craft rooms are made available, so it is nothing more than a patient's hotel. Even the men do not have any activities to while away their time.

This is disconcerting to see patients attending the facility with nothing to do, and it becomes clear that boredom plays a role in patients partaking in activities that are not conducive to their health, especially when they have been staying in the facility for long periods. I find it odd that we don't see more cases, as some patients do things that are unbecoming because they are bored.

Actually, it seems to be the case for everyone who stays at the Larga facility because there are no activities, and I am only referring to the Larga facility where our Baffin residents stay while they are receiving medical treatments. I am not including the other facilities as I have no experience.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the minister regarding the Larga boarding home and potential improvements or service provision that can be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 935 – 5(2): Martha Talirug Centre

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to recognize the members of the Martha Talirug Centre Committee in Baker Lake who have expressed a strong interest in reopening the centre to continue providing elder care in the community of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister of Health for including me in his correspondence to the committee in which he indicates that his department will be repurposing the Martha Talirug Centre into a community wellness centre.

Mr. Speaker, I am, of course, in support of community wellness initiatives. However, I am disappointed that more effort was not given to keeping the Martha Talirug Centre elder care home open and operating in the community of Baker Lake.

While I recognize that there were management issues to be resolved and a need for renovations both inside and outside of the building, it is not clear why more consideration was not given to reopening the facility for the elders once those issues were taken care of. I can appreciate that my fellow members who have elder care homes in their communities worry that they may suffer the same fate.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the government's plans to build and operate new long-term care facilities in the three regional centres. For elders who require the highest levels of care, being closer to regional health facilities is an important factor to consider. However, being able to age peacefully, in comfort and dignity, close to one's family and friends, in a familiar space are also important considerations.

Mr. Speaker, during our debate on the government's proposed interim capital budget last Thursday, the Minister of Health spoke of the families of elders who are currently receiving care down in Ottawa and he stated that they would love, and I will quote from the unedited *Hansard*:

“...where at least their parents can look out the window and not see a highway or a tree or another brick building, but to be able to look out their landscape, look at the land, to hear the howling of the blizzard.”

Mr. Speaker, the minister must know that the blizzards in Baker Lake are special. It is for exactly this reason that I feel it important that our government not commit capital dollars now for a future long-term facility when there are many other community-based needs for elder care which should be considered and evaluated within the context of Nunavut as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 936 – 5(2): Water Treatment Plant for Whale Cove

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, first of all, it's good to see you in that Chair. I realize you're just filling in, but to all the Toronto Maple Leafs fans out there, we didn't win the cup this year, but at least you took the Speaker's seat just for one day at least. Way to go, Toronto, and there's always next year. Craig, you will want your mute.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make a statement today regarding the construction of a permanent water treatment plant in Whale Cove. I'll note for the record, Mr. Speaker, when I do question the progress of this project, I'm not questioning the motivation of the Minister of Community and Government Services. To make accusations along the lines of "The minister does not care for this" or "The minister does not care for that," I believe that would be out of line and so the questions that I do intend to raise with the department will be based on the facts.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a while for Whale Cove waiting for this water treatment plant. I remember running for MLA back in 2017 and hearing from people in the community how tiresome and what a burden it was to deal with the boil water advisories on an annual basis.

Early in our term, Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see funding put in place by this Assembly to build a permanent solution in the community. However, I am concerned that this project is crawling towards construction. I did ask questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services in the winter sitting about this project, and I believe it has moved into the design phase, which is encouraging, but the construction is not scheduled to be completed until 2024.

I will have questions about the project timeline, budget, and the status of the request for proposals at the appropriate time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 937 – 5(2): Caring for Our Elders

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my colleagues and my fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I too wish to rise to voice a statement regarding our elders.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we advocate incessantly on behalf of our elders and all members have previously done that to represent the wishes of their constituency elders.

Mr. Speaker, the capital budget items are consistently reviewed by regular members, and as MLAs, we recall proper pathways or paths to travel, and which we try to follow, as we do not want our elders to go through that hardship as we are representing them to try to alleviate their circumstances as we ardently fight for them.

Mr. Speaker, our elders passed along their legacy by teaching us the history, and past lessons. If we follow them, our position as elected representatives will commence as we follow the lessons we were taught, which we recall through our statements and how we think.

Mr. Speaker, just last week during our sitting when it began, the funding requests were submitted for the elders' facility and with the motion to rescind this funding by regular members, the purpose was not because we don't care about our elders, but rather, Mr. Speaker, that our government has to adhere to the shared priorities, as we want the government to operate smoothly, and we want proper care for our disabled elders.

When we were children, they were the ones holding our hands, and this forms part of the many lessons we learned at the hands of our elders. Mr. Speaker, if we are told to our face... .

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

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his member's statement. Are there any nays? Seeing none. Please continue, Mr. Qirngnuq.

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

Mr. Speaker, what I was saying was that our elders left lessons for us, which was left behind to provide assistance to other Inuit requiring help, and we try to show that here as well in this House, and to show our passionate advocacy of our beloved elders.

This is due to the principal of helping fellow Inuit whom our elders passed along so that we can help others, and if our fellow Inuit ask or if our ministers tell us that we are not supporting our elders by not approving their funding amounts, and why we are unwilling to fund that initiative?

Mr. Speaker, this is not an imaginary issue neither is it observable as it is inherently in us, and we know what our elders wanted, proper facilities that alleviate their situations. We are looking at ourselves too, and we want to make sure our elders are taken care of properly, and we will always push hard for that. We got elected because we want to help the elders.

Mr. Speaker I will have questions before the end of this sitting on this matter. That's all I have to say for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 938 – 5(2): Caring for Our Elders

Mr. Akoak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Gjoa Haven and to the people of Nunavut. I say "good day" to everyone who is listening and watching the proceedings.

This current topic that we are discussing is hard, but our elders' future is always on our minds. Elders want to stay in their own lands and be able to see their family. They simply need our help to do so. I know that I have relatives in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay as well. I have family and I was elected in Gjoa Haven to represent them. I always have them in my mind because I want to represent them properly. I will always strive to do that.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we went through hardship last week, and I think we did well all because we are thinking of our elders in Nunavut. I don't have anything written down, so this is just coming from my heart, where I've been told that whatever comes out from your heart is the truth.

Mr. Speaker, we were told last week that the members do not care for their elders, which is totally, totally wrong, and that is very hurtful when it comes out that way. I'm asked why Gjoa Haven? Why Gjoa Haven? Why not Gjoa Haven? We have an existing building here already that can be improved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his member's statement. Are there any nays? Seeing none, please continue, Mr. Akoak.

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

I asked: "Why not Gjoa Haven?" We have an existing building that can be improved using the funding. You can make it into a bigger building, add more beds, and also, why not Gjoa Haven? It's the center of Kitikmeot. We have two communities on each side that we can look after. It can come here. Why not Gjoa Haven? We already have at least 40 people working in this facility. I know all of them may not be full-time, but at least they are working; they are making money to put food on their tables. To increase the building, you would add more people working in this community.

I'm happy that my fellow MLAs did vote beside me. It is only because we do care for our elders. We do care that the young people need to see their elders face to face and give them a hug for the time they have left on this earth.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be from Nunavut where we are told that with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*; we do not hold any grudges amongst each other. We do talk to each other for the betterment of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Ehaloak.

Member's Statement 939 – 5(2): 2021 Cambridge Bay High School Graduates

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I was very excited this weekend to receive a text from one of my constituents who is going to be graduating this summer from high school. I want to acknowledge those graduates here in the House as we are always proud of our youth who graduate and either potentially look for employment or careers that they want to be in, or further themselves in post-secondary education.

Today I would like to congratulate:

- Deanna Taylor
- Aislyn Omilgoetok, who is the one that contacted me this weekend. From my heart, I apologize I'm not there, but I will be in spirit.
- Jaiden Maksagak
- Makenzie Otokiak
- Sascha Evetalegak

I would also like to congratulate one of my other constituents who graduated from high school in Cambridge Bay and furthered himself in his studies and recently became Chief Executive Officer for World Copper Limited, and that is Nolan Peterson, whose father sat in this House as a minister and MLA for Cambridge Bay.

Congratulations to all of them, and I look forward to coming home and seeing these young individuals and congratulating them in person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 940 – 5(2): Congratulations to David Watsko Jr.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, my daughter celebrated her birthday, I wished her a very happy birthday, and it was a lot of fun. This past Friday in Iqaluit, there was a gathering after 215 bodies of indigenous children that attended residential school were discovered buried haphazardly without markers. It is so saddening to hear of such incidents.

And further, my in-laws as well as my daughter-in-law were sent out when they were very young and eventually returned home. When I was a youth, I too had to attend residential school to pursue higher education, and the parents I am about to reference also attended high school as well.

Nonetheless, I want to express my congratulations to students who graduated, as every community in Nunavut is now able to offer grade 12 classes which students can pass locally. On Friday in Grise Fiord, David Jr. Watsko was the sole graduate from grade 12,

and there was a celebration. I congratulate his family, his fellow students, and all communities.

In Grise Fiord we have a local belief that since as a smaller community, we are all responsible for raising our children, and whenever our children graduate, it becomes a very large local gathering.

With that being the case, I take great pride in announcing that David or DJ as we call him, graduated from his high school courses, and we encourage him to pursue further education, nonetheless, he has the sole discretion of choosing what he wishes to pursue.

Our children are to be celebrated in any big occasions such as graduating.

The doors of opportunities are opening at all levels. I congratulate the graduate and the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 941 – 5(2): A Successful 2021 Turbot Fishery in Pangnirtung

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and the people of Pangnirtung.

Around the same time last year, as this information is updated annually in Pangnirtung and as colleagues are aware, I also mentioned this issue last year, specifically our local turbot fishery that has its ups and downs annually, but it remains very beneficial to the fishers of Pangnirtung.

This year, they opened the fishery on February 14 and licensed fishers gathered to fish until the month of April, and there were 104 fishers who were licensed and fishing. As well, this year was quite successful, which again was a local source of pride and accomplishment.

As well, this spring up to the summer fishing season, they have requested to charter a ship to fish their summer quotas via ships, and this is obviously being reviewed with great zeal, however, this year, and last year, difficulties emerged, mainly due to the airline scheduling.

The cargo schedules became problematic, as weather and other matters combined to lower the shipping of turbot fillets and produce, nonetheless, the fishery is quite important to residents of Pangnirtung and I am happy that my fellow residents of Pangnirtung have this opportunity, especially our younger generations.

I wanted to voice my pride in my fellow residents over their successful fishery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasié.

Member's Statement 942 – 5(2): 2021 Kimmirut High School Graduates

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. My thoughts are with the people of Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to vociferously congratulate the graduates who completed their grade 12 classes. I wanted to express my pride in their accomplishments and I want to name each of the graduates, as they graduated on Friday with a ceremony, and I apologize for not being able to attend.

Nonetheless, I was able to get a digital copy of the names immediately and watched via webcast online, but it was great to witness that and it sure filled everyone with pride. The graduates in 2021 are the following:

- Inuusiq Allen
- Jacob Akpik
- Jennifer Corcoran
- Sarah Saggiatuk

I'm sure that this day will be a memorable one for them. They have a lot of opportunities opening up to them.

Also, I would like to congratulate the parents and the people of our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. We will move on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 1301 – 5(2): Update on Renovations to Elder Designated Housing

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Member Pauloosie Keyootak regarding the renovations to elder designated housing.

The housing corporation investigated the upkeep of the facility in Clyde River in October last year. My officials learned that the ramp leading into the building was not cleared of snow. The local housing organization now removes the snow regularly and continues to ensure the units are well maintained, and the grounds and walkways are kept clear. The local housing organization has since completed an inspection to determine what other improvements may be necessary. They found only routine maintenance and repair was needed, and a flight of stairs needed to be lowered to make them easier to climb. The stair renovations were completed, and the elders residing there were satisfied with the repairs. The local housing organization will be completing a condition rating on these units this year. Any additional maintenance needed will be determined through this inspection and will be completed. We have not received any complaints about the condition of the units from the elders.

I would like to clarify that the Clyde River elders facility is public housing units which the local housing organization specifically assigns for elders who can live by themselves. These units are not designated as assisted living or elders' care facilities and the housing corporation cannot offer housekeeping services or provide staff as live-in caregivers. Should elders need assistance, they may be eligible to receive services from the Department of Health's Territorial Home and Community Care program. They can also request home care services through their community health centre or their local home care office. These services provided by Health can be provided in the public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Return to Oral Question 1316 – 5(2): Safe Spaces for Youth

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to return to an oral question asked by Mr. Lightstone, MLA for Iqaluit-Manirajak, asked of myself, No. 1316 – 5(2), dated Tuesday, May 31, 2021, and the subject was safe spaces for youth.

Questions were:

1. Can the minister describe what specific initiatives have been funded through the department's Youth Support Services Division since April 1, 2020?
2. I would like to ask the minister if she would be able to elaborate a little bit further exactly what sort of support and assistance has the Department of Family Services provided in the creation as well as subsequent operation of the safe shelter in Cambridge Bay?
3. Will the minister commit to establishing a much-needed safe shelter for youth in the community of Iqaluit?

Written response or my answers are:

1. I shared information about two projects that have been funded to date in fiscal year 2021-22 in Cambridge Bay and Arviat through the department's Youth Initiative Fund. Additional applications are also currently under review. I would like to add that these two projects and two other projects were also funded in fiscal year 2020-21. The Municipality of Pond Inlet received \$100,000 for its youth centre focused on creating a safe environment for youth through fitness, building of traditional skills and connection with elders. The Arctic Child and Youth Foundation received \$10,000 to provide country food in the Umingmak Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.
2. With regard to the Okalik Youth Shelter, the department's Kitikmeot regional office works in close collaboration with the Municipality of Cambridge Bay's healthy living department. Family Services responds to after-hour calls for support, provides referrals, and works collaboratively with the healthy living department to connect youth in need with these supports.
3. The Department of Family Services provides support to communities through funding for the operations of youth safe spaces and programming, but not to build safe spaces. Funding is available for the operations of safe shelters for youth in Iqaluit and I am committed to working together with partners to establish one.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Being none. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1359 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier.

As the Premier will recall, I had the pleasure of hosting him and a number of his cabinet colleagues in Baker Lake earlier this year on the occasion of their attendance at a Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated board meeting that was held in my community.

At that time I had the opportunity to make some formal welcoming remarks and to provide my perspective as Baker Lake's MLA on the state of the relationship between the territorial government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the three regional Inuit organizations, and the mining sector.

As the Premier will also recall, I raised a number of concerns in my welcoming remarks, including the need for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the regional Inuit

organizations to provide significantly more resources and dollars to address our territory's severe infrastructure deficit and housing shortage.

Can the Premier indicate the extent to which his government shares my concerns? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I definitely do remember the opening remarks from the MLA from Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker, I share his concerns about the lack of infrastructure too. I know that we are lacking. Mr. Speaker, when I have a chance to meet with federal ministers and the Prime Minister, I state that, for infrastructure purposes here in Nunavut, we're not even at the start line in terms of our infrastructure needs. We need to get caught up to the rest of Canada in terms of infrastructure and the services that are provided here within Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, his concerns are also my concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response and I'm glad he shares my concerns as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that one of the issues that were formally discussed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's board of directors at its meeting in Baker Lake was the idea of moving towards a new form of Inuit self-government here in Nunavut.

As the Premier himself noted last week, the Government of Nunavut now provides its draft policies to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for review and comment.

Can the Premier confirm whether or not Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has provided a copy of its proposed Inuit self-government policy to the Government of Nunavut for review and comment and, if it has, will he commit to sharing it with all Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An overview of the report, to the best of my recollection, has been shared, not the actual report, to the best of my recollection, but an overview and I'll look into whether we can share that with members or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his response and I'm hoping that he will be able to share that with us.

As the Premier will recall, one of the issues that I raised in my welcoming remarks at the recent Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated board meeting in Baker Lake was the need for greater cooperation between federal, territorial and Inuit organizations in respect to providing opportunities for Inuit to receive the training that they need for professional careers in the natural resources sector, which is a critically important part of our territory's economy.

Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake does not want its children and grandchildren to be dependent on social assistance.

Can the Premier indicate if the Government of Nunavut is satisfied with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's current level of support for the natural resources sector in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member says he doesn't want people in Baker Lake to want to rely on social assistance. Mr. Speaker, no one does. The goal of every parent, I believe, is that their kids will do at least as good as or better than their parents. That's everyone's goal.

Mr. Speaker, we work with the federal government and we work with the Inuit orgs so that we can have Nunavummiut, especially Nunavut Inuit, to be employable, whether it be the mining sector, government jobs, or private industries. We want all Nunavummiut to be employable and it all starts with education. We all need to get educated, we need training, and we all have to step up to the plate.

Mr. Speaker, I will work with anyone to make sure that Nunavut Inuit, but all Nunavummiut are employable. That is our goal. We want Nunavummiut to be able to stand up on their own two feet. We as a province don't want to always be on handouts either. We want to be able to bolster our own money. That's why we're in devolution talks. That's why we're trying to always promote our agenda. Mr. Speaker, we all want to be self-sustainable and I have that goal too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Question 1360 – 5(2): Elders at Embassy West in Ottawa

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm going to direct my question to the Minister of Health in regard to Embassy West down in Ottawa.

Ever since COVID-19 started, the pandemic, in Nunavut or nationwide, I'll put it that way, I would just like the statistics on how many elders have been sent down as of now. Are there any statistics that the minister can share in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elder care facility in Ottawa has room for 35 Nunavummiut and there are currently 34 people down there from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for providing the numbers of the elders down at Embassy.

I would like to go back to the minister's opening statements in regard to the long-term care in Rankin Inlet, which I'm in support of that. As we all know, those elders that have dementia are sent down as level 5 patients. In your minister's statement, you stated that "...Nunavummiut with complex needs such as dementia," and looking at the appropriations with the government's plan, correct me if I'm wrong, minister, I believe that the Rankin Inlet facility could hold up to level 4 patients, and in your minister's statement, our elders with dementia will be able to be there. Is there any waiting list or how many Embassy patients with dementia will be able to go to that facility? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my colleague would read the full paragraph, it says that "This facility will allow Nunavummiut to provide a broader range of advanced care to our clients, eventually expanding to Nunavummiut with complex needs such as dementia." It will eventually get to dealing with those when it reaches capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not want the whole sentence clear, but I'm sure it won't be right away, as the minister has just stated that it will start operating in 2023. I'm sure that elders with dementia will be on the waiting list for a long time.

Now, my last question is in regard to the dementia care at Embassy. Mr. Speaker, as we all stated, we don't want our elders to go down south. I'm sure that once they are down there, they're culture shocked. When they come from the Arctic and down to southern Canada where it's very hot right now, I'm sure it's like plus 36 down there, and we're just getting to our pluses.

My next question, once this facility is open in Rankin Inlet, I'm sure there will be 24-bed long-term care for elders. Can the minister get back to me on if there is a waiting list that the health department has created? Are there any waiting lists for those who have dementia care or who are under level 5? Is there any category that is fixed if we want to repatriate elders from Embassy? What's the number there? How will this work out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kaerner. Minister of Health, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about a 24-bed facility. Mr. Speaker, we will attempt to fill every bed in the facility. Many of them will come from Ottawa, from Embassy West. Some might come from other communities that already have existing programs.

Mr. Speaker, our department is committed to ramping up as quickly as possible to be able to bring home as many Nunavummiut as possible with the highest care that they need, but we will work to fill every bed. If it means filling it from Ottawa or other facilities in Nunavut, we will do that.

Mr. Speaker, what we also have to keep in mind is how many people or how many elders in Nunavut have not reported their elders and themselves to needing care because they don't want to be sent south. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important facility to take care of our elders so that they get that care and the reason for having regional centres is that, to bring them so that they could get the highest level of attention that they can get as close to the regional hospitals as we can.

I appreciate the question, Mr. Speaker, and as I get more details in terms of what kinds of programs we are working to ramp up the program, I will be more than happy to share it with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1361 – 5(2): Human Resources Management in the Public Service

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you're doing a fine job so far, just to let you know.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Human Resources.

As the minister will recall, I asked a number of questions during last fall's sitting concerning recommendations made by the ethics officer in his annual report. At that time I noted that the ethics officer had indicated that:

“...employees of the Nunavut public service work in small communities and even smaller workplaces. Making a disclosure takes great courage and entails significant risk both in the workplace and in the community.

(...) Most jurisdictions allow employees to make an internal disclosure, as is the case in Nunavut, but also allow employees to skip this step and make the disclosure directly to the relevant independent officer (in Nunavut, the Ethics Officer).

(...) I...suggest that the Legislative Assembly give serious consideration to the merit of such approach.”

Mr. Speaker, the minister tabled the ethics officer’s most recent annual report last week, and I note that the ethics officer again made the same recommendation.

Can the minister clearly confirm when the government will introduce amendments to the *Public Service Act* to implement this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we head into our final session this fall, there are no plans on making any amendments to our legislation at this time. Therefore the answer will be: that would be for the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do expect to hear a lot of that coming from the ministers at this time as October is rolling around, but I’m really hoping that the minister will provide that as a recommendation to the next minister coming forward because I think it’s a good one.

As the minister will also recall, I have asked a number of questions about the government’s Harassment-Free Workplace Policy. As of today, the policy that is publicly available on his department’s website is out of date. Can the minister clearly confirm when an updated policy will be made publicly available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought we had corrected that already, but I’ll commit to following that up. Under our *Human Resource Manual* the most up to date 1010 policy or manual is available and is being used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think if the minister looked at the website, he'll see that it expired last January.

Mr. Speaker, the current business plan of the Department of Human Resources indicates that a new employee wellness strategy is "anticipated to be completed before the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year."

Can the minister clearly confirm when will the strategy be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a firm deadline in terms of when that strategy's going to be completed, but I want to assure the members that that work is still ongoing and will continue. It is a topic where there is a very high priority of our department to get that Wellness Division up and running, and with a strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1362 – 5(2): Airport Infrastructure Capital Projects

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, would like to ask questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, with his other hat.

(interpretation) Last week, the minister informed the House that his department's tender for the three new airport terminal buildings in Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove will close this coming Thursday, June 10.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, what assurances can he provide us today that these tenders will not be cancelled, as has happened recently with tenders for a number of other capital projects, including renovations to the Sakku School and new public housing units in Taloyoak? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is our intent to build all three. As some of my colleagues have stated, this is a very unusual year, especially for construction. We are looking at our tenders as they close and looking at each one of those. This will be no different.

It is one of the options, in terms of whether we will proceed or not, and it all depends on how much the budget is in some cases. Therefore, I cannot confirm whether I will be firm in getting these in or not. We need to have the tenders closed and look at the amounts before we make those decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever the government puts out a tender for a contract, and the bids are higher than the monies set aside, then the government starts asking the MLAs. I'm suspecting that this is for more than three contracts, and whenever a bid is over the budgeted amount, then they do a supplementary appropriation to regular MLAs to ensure the project goes ahead.

I would like to ask the minister: if the bid is not too much higher than the money appropriated, or it is not substantially over the monies available, would the department be able to consider making a supplementary appropriation to pay for the increased bid over the monies available? Can the minister commit to that, because these important projects have been waiting for a long time to be done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his good words. I would support that, but we don't know yet at the moment because the tender for the contract is still open. Additionally, if the project ends up with three airport terminal buildings, or five, we have an agreement with the federal government where they would pay for the 75 percent and we would pay 25 percent.

Once we know how much the bids are, and if they are higher than the money allotted, we will have to look at different options before we proceed further. It is better for us if the bids are close to the money allotted because, I agree, they need to be built and done, and we have put forward a request for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have seen as a government here, in the Fifth Assembly that the correctional facility had one bid, it went over budget, and the extra money was approved. Right now there is a tender process happening, and once the government knows how much higher the tender would be than the allotted money is, these three contractor companies will be very happy if they bid higher than the money available.

Sometimes we approve budgets that are higher than the money that was allotted and we want to make sure that these airport terminal buildings are built because we are falling significantly behind in the smaller communities, more so than in the others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is in the competition process right now, so I have good expectations about it. We have asked these airport terminal buildings to actually be constructed because they have to be safe everywhere in

Nunavut, no matter how small or big a community is, and those three communities in the Kivalliq, one in the Kitikmeot, and one in the Baffin really need to be worked on.

After the tenders have been closed, we will make whatever considerations that we have to do, but because the tenders are still open, we hope that we have set aside enough money after we find out what the bids are. If they go over budget, then we will have to make more considerations. Thank you to my colleague for bringing this up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Akoak.

Question 1363 – 5(2): Housing Needs in Gjoa Haven

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I wrote correspondence to her and the Minister of Human Resources in April of this year concerning the issue of staff housing needs in my constituency of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I received a reply from the minister on Friday of last week and I thank her for that. In her letter to me, the minister indicated that “The Nunavut Housing Corporation had planned to construct two five-plex buildings, one for public housing and one for staff housing, in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation in Nunavut, priorities have shifted to addressing potential COVID-19 issues related to overcrowding. The planned staff housing units will be re-purposed to public housing.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that the Nunavut Housing Corporation formally consulted with the Gjoa Haven Housing Association before making this decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Hon. Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) I will take the member’s questions as notice. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member has taken the question as notice, so I’ll move on to the next member. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 1364 – 5(2): Counselling Services at Boarding Homes

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

Mr. Speaker, as per my member's statement, I spoke about the facilities that our medical travel patients are housed in, as not having enough services such as workers providing advice or counselling services for patients and escorts.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an explanation of the boarding homes for the benefit of the people of Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions? Do all boarding homes have social workers or counsellors for their patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Health, the Hon. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, all the boarding homes have counsellors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Now some patients have to stay down south for medical treatment for a very long time and some of them have the same problems that we have in our general lives.

Sometimes couples will have spats and problems, and some will turn to alcohol and other things that they're not supposed to turn to, but they do because they've been down there for so long they don't seem to have any people that they can talk to.

I feel a lot of pity for them, especially the ones who lose family members. They don't have anybody down there notify family members that they've lost a family member. They should have things in place that can help people mentally when they're going through too much hardship, and sometimes couples have marital problems and there doesn't seem to be any counsellors to help them. Can the minister inform the counsellors or Family Services that they should do more to help medical travel patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you're travelling to a hospital a lot of problems can arise unexpectedly and sometimes they can become very serious problems and sometimes it becomes confusing as to where you can turn to.

We do have counsellors in different boarding homes, and I agree with my colleague that they should do more. I will ask them to be more visible in the boarding homes and to provide more information, like if they need help, this is where they can turn to sort of thing. If we could do more of that it would be quite useful. I agree with my colleague on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that information. I am very glad to hear that.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question because as I indicated earlier, some patients are there for a very long time. Not all of them, but they can be there for months at a time with no planned activities and they just end up sitting there and waiting for their appointments. I know that the Department of Health is not responsible for the operation of those medical boarding homes.

Could you work with the people who are operating the boarding homes to ensure they have planned activities or outings provided at those centres? Could you work with the organizations? There's something, and I think especially for some of the escorts, particularly as they have no idle time activities to undertake, and they seem to just wait out the times, and in some cases, the medical patients themselves are not in critical condition, but rather just waiting for their next appointment, with no activities available.

Can the minister work with the companies who own those facilities to provide more planned activities for both the men and women? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague's comments wholeheartedly. When you travel outside of your community, I know you were not talking about a daylong event as I understood your question.

Sometimes, an activity that isn't far, but that takes you from the dullness of the boarding home will alleviate boredom, even having lunch in a new place can lead to more stimulation, even if it is not a daylong event.

I understand that aspect of your question, and this would definitely assist our patients in all facilities that the GN contracts out, and since I understand your reasoning, I will commit to move this forward to our officials to see if we can provide more time-consuming activities by discussions with the managers.

This would apply as well to short-term patients as they need to be mentally stimulated, and not all patients have the wherewithal to undertake these kinds of activities to pass away the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for asking that question.

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

Question 1365 – 5(2): Sewage Leak in Rankin Inlet

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, good afternoon to Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet North.

My question is to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The territorial government was discharging approximately 1,600 cubic metres of raw sewage into Rankin Inlet's Perry Bay following the discovery of a leak at the Johnson Cove Lift Station. My question to the minister is: where is this at? Is the leak still going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, the Hon. Ms. Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. A sewage leak was identified at the Johnson Cove Lift Station in Rankin Inlet. Community and Government Services began pumping any leaked sewage back into the station immediately when the leak was discovered by the contractor.

Community and Government Services operations began work to identify the location of the leak and repair the leak on June 2 and the repair efforts are ongoing. All efforts are being made to contain any leaking wastewater during the repair, but there is a possibility of wastewater being discharged into the Johnson Cove area. Cleanup of the discharge would be undertaken during and after the repair and any discharge will be reported appropriately to the appropriate Department of Environment and Department of Health and Health Canada as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. I'm just curious that if every effort is being made to expedite the repair in the future to reduce the duration of the bypass being engaged, mainly because we're leaking raw sewage and that type of system is outdated. I need to know for the community of Rankin Inlet: will it be going through the wastewater treatment in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for her question. Community and Government Services makes sure that any water treatment intake facilities in our communities and any wastewater in our facilities work adequately to make sure that our water reservoirs are not a risk to human health.

I can tell the Member for Rankin Inlet that the current situation in Rankin Inlet, from the Department of Health, the Department of Environment and federal agencies; they have stated at this time there is limited risk to the public associated with this leak, but community members should maintain distance from this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Hello? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, minister for her response. Rankin Inlet is one of the three communities with utilidor underwater running water. We don't have trucked services, only to a few and that's outdated. It's about 40 years old and we do get brown water. Where is the situation at? Is the utilidor going to be worked at? Along with that, will the water treatment plant be looked at and studied and designed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. Minister Ehaloak.

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Again I thank the member for her question. Community and Government Services is working to upgrade the Rankin Inlet utilidor to address low water pressure and leaks and low capacity. We have secured funds to upgrade the facility and we are working diligently to ensure that this system and repairs are done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. The Hon. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Question 1366 – 5(2): Addressing Homelessness

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. Throughout our territory, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many of our residents; both young and old. As an elected member of this Assembly, I am now more than ever concerned about homelessness among my constituents.

Can the minister clearly explain how she is working with her colleagues, and especially with the minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, to address the desperate need for housing for my constituents? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Family Services, the Honourable Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for that question. It's clear that homelessness is being experienced in all communities and is an additional stress.

With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministers are collaborating. For example, in Iqaluit we have contacted the Red Cross to help us with the situation. I am just using that as an example. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues will be aware, my community of Taloyoak was expecting the honour of having two new five-plex housing units being built in the community. This would have been a huge step towards addressing the problem of homelessness. However, we have learned that these projects have been cancelled due to high costs of goods and services. Can the minister tell us her department's plan to address the lack of spaces for people to live in, especially in small communities like Taloyoak where there is already very limited housing available? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for his question. Even though I'm not responsible, we are constantly telling the federal government about the issue of homeless in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that every community in Nunavut needs more housing. I also know that homelessness is a critical issue, even in the bigger communities. However, I am sure you and my colleagues will appreciate how disappointing it is to find out that desperately needed housing, which was promised to the community, will no longer be built.

Will the minister commit to working with the people of Taloyoak, especially those who have no homes to call their own, to find suitable accommodation for themselves and their families? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our department is always committed to working with my fellow ministers, our MLAs, and especially the communities, through the Poverty Reduction Division, is exactly to do that, to reach out to each community to see potentially what spaces are available for immediate use. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernek.

Question 1367 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure in Sanirajak

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, during our winter sitting I tabled a hamlet council motion concerning the Sanirajak breakwater feasibility study. I'm not sure what you call it. Can the minister confirm how his department addressed this issue? Are they supporting it? Are they planning to begin the study? Could the minister provide us with an update at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will include all of the other communities. With regard to the request for funds, Sanirajak is one of the communities that has submitted a proposal. I don't have a response to your question at this time in terms of which projects have been approved. They are currently being reviewed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It may take a while, but we can begin projects such as organizing community hunts, and as you probably know, the coast in Sanirajak is eroding.

We have had cases where damage has been done to hunting equipment, such as outboard motors, for example, and it isn't only Sanirajak. It also includes Igloolik, as they have to go through Sanirajak to go caribou hunting.

Are you working with your federal counterparts so we can initiate this program? I supported the hamlet's proposal because it was support by the hamlet council in my community. It is also included in your documents.

How long do you expect it to take to complete the review of the proposal? Will it take a year, or longer than a year, or will it be reviewed next week, or tomorrow? That is my question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We made a request to the federal government and received approval for Nunavut communities, and we are reviewing where marine infrastructure will be installed and what the associated costs would be for all communities.

Sanirajak has already submitted a proposal that this project be constructed saying "This is the site and this is the name," et cetera. They have already submitted their proposal, and I

envy those communities that do apply. The ones that are approved, upon review we will be requesting further funding.

To your comment, the (interpretation ends) Community Transportation Initiative Program (interpretation) is a pot of money that many communities apply for, and we try and approve them in advance of summer because these projects can only go ahead during the summer months.

Our office has just started reopening this past week, and slowly our employees have returned to work. This is one of the priorities as far as I know, and I have issued a directive toward that, but when it will be finalized, I cannot say. Upon approval of the funds, every community that has submitted a request will have their requests reviewed and that is how we will proceed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All communities have applied for that program, and we have communities like Iqaluit and Pond Inlet, and they are focusing on the High Arctic and they have received additional requests.

Perhaps the minister will agree; I want to see development and the jobs that will come with it for the communities. The question I want to ask the minister: as you said, all communities want to receive funding. Will the have-nots be a priority with respect to marine infrastructure? I want to see progress made as well in the smaller communities. Can the minister agree with me: the request by the hamlet, as you mentioned earlier, yes.

Yes, I think I asked you a two-part question, how many have requested and how many will go ahead with the projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The feasibility study that we're conducting under the Oceans Protection Plan to do all the feasibilities for the docks for all communities that don't have docks is there have been delays in trying to get that study done, but the priority had been for, I believe there were ten communities that were selected along with, I believe, the eight remaining other communities that don't have docks and we're still committed to getting that feasibility study done. We were planning on going to each community and that was supposed to be last summer and it was not physically possible. I'm expecting that this has been modified and should be prepared for my review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Question 1368 – 5(2): Office of the Chief Coroner

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by paying tribute to the extremely important but difficult work that our community coroners perform. I do not know if I could do this job, but I want to thank every coroner in the territory for their service.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I think it was in March of this year, the minister made a statement in which he indicated that a justice career fair was being held and that representatives from the Office of the Chief Coroner would be present.

Can the minister update the House today on how many community coroners are currently serving in this role and can he clarify which Nunavut communities, if any, do not currently have a resident coroner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Justice, the Hon. Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking up the exact information, Mr. Speaker, if the member will bear with me for a moment.

I know there were some recent appointments and I just can't recall the exact information. I do know there are a couple of communities that are sharing, neighbouring communities. I have a whole bunch of other statistics here, but unfortunately I don't have the exact number of coroners that are active in the territory at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can get back to the House on those numbers.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have previously asked questions about the issue of what training and support is provided to community coroners. As the minister is aware, the annual budget for the Office of the Coroner is currently set at \$901,000 and is not projected to increase over the next three fiscal years. Can the minister indicate what new initiatives are being planned to provide training and support to community coroners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the interim I was able to locate the information. There are currently 15 coroners across the territory. The coroner's office is putting out advertisements in the very near future to recruit more coroners. At that time there will be a training plan established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted in my opening comments earlier this year about the budget and business plan for the Department of Justice, an annual report for the Office of the Chief Coroner has not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly since the year 2014. That report contained useful information and important recommendations which I believe should be provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and made accessible to the public on a regular basis. When will the minister resume the practice of tabling these important reports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was part of a discussion I had with some of my departmental officials recently on some of the tabling items that we do want to put forward and as I'm sure the member knows, there has been a bit of turnover at the chief coroner's office. We are working with that office to finalize the previous years' annual reports and I do look forward to tabling them in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. A note to members that the time allotted for oral question period is now expired. We will move on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. No. 10. Petitions. No. 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 040 – 5(2): Bill 53, An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the chair, I wish to report that Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 53 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. The member is requesting unanimous consent to allow Bill 53 to be referred immediately to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none and Bill 53 is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Ms. Angnakak.

Committee Report 041 – 5(2): Bill 73, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the chair, I wish to report that Bill 73, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 73 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is requesting unanimous consent to allow Bill 73 to be referred immediately to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are none and Bill 73 is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees [on Bills] and Other Matters. Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 53, 65, 72, and 73 with Ms. Angnakak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 114 – 5(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:49 and Committee recessed at 16:21

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 72, 53, and 65. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Madam Chairperson, we wish to commence with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 72, followed by the review of Bill 53 and then Bill 65. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 72?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 72 – Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Consideration in Committee

Chairperson: I would like to ask Minister Hickes: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yes, please.

Chairperson: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: For the record, Minister Hickes, please introduce your officials.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just for the sake of time, my witnesses are actually for Bill 53, but just with respect for time, I have my Deputy Minister of Justice, Stephen Mansell, and Legislative Drafter from the Department of Justice Thomas Ahlfors. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Mr. Ahlfors has been with us for every bill, I think. I ask members to go to Bill 72 in your legislative binder, please.

Okay. Bill 72, reprint, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 3. Go to Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Interim Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023. Total Interim Appropriation. \$37,873,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: That's a big number. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to Bill 72 (reprint)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to put Bill 72 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Closing comments, minister.

Hon. George Hickes: None. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairperson: Okay. We will now proceed with the review of Bill 53. Minister Hickes, please proceed with your opening comments. Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm switching over to my bill here.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am here today to discuss *An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*.

I will use the acronym if members and the interpreters don't mind.

The RCMP Agreement Act is a minor piece of legislation that allows the Government of Nunavut to enter into an agreement with the federal government to provide police services in Nunavut through the RCMP.

While exploring options to have civilian review of serious police involved incidents in Nunavut, we determined that we need to create a legislative authority to enter into an agreement with an independent investigatory body for the purpose of investigating serious incidents involving the RCMP.

As we are now amending this legislation to expand policing authorities beyond the RCMP, it is appropriate to change the title of the legislation to the "Police Act," which is also consistent with other jurisdictions.

It is a priority for the Department of Justice to ensure any change to the way policing in the territory is conducted is forward facing and reflects the needs of Nunavummiut. For this reason, additional amendments to this legislation also include provisions that allow for the appointment of a civilian monitor and a cultural advisor. These appointed individuals will ensure that the investigation is completed in a manner free of bias and is

appropriate to the community and culture of those involved. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm open to any questions.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Hickes. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation) I'm the co-chair, as John Main can't be here.

As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I am pleased to make opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*.

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

The standing committee has been engaged in a productive dialogue with the sponsoring minister concerning the bill. A number of amendments were adopted by way of motion on the occasion of the standing committee's recent clause-by-clause consideration of the bill. These amendments resulted in a number of significant improvements to the bill, including:

- (interpretation) A requirement for the minister to table an annual report in the Legislative Assembly concerning the administration of the statute;
- A requirement for the minister to table copies of agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut and independent investigative bodies and other entities;
- A requirement for written reasons to be provided and made public in circumstances where the designated authority does not appoint a contracted investigative body to review a serious incident; and
- A requirement for a cultural advisor to be appointed to advise a contracted investigative body in most circumstances.

(interpretation ends) Over the course of its exchanges with the sponsoring minister concerning the bill, the standing committee obtained a number of important commitments concerning issues of importance. These include:

- A commitment by the department to formally consulting with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner concerning proposed agreements with independent investigative bodies and other entities;
- A commitment to ensuring that agreements entered into between the Government of Nunavut and independent investigative bodies and other entities include disclosure

requirements that are comparable to those which are in place in other Canadian jurisdictions in respect to the public reporting of investigative findings;

- A commitment to work towards achieving a long-term goal of establishing a Nunavut-based civilian oversight body; and
- A commitment to providing the standing committee with draft regulations for its review and comment.

I wish to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee strongly encourages the department to communicate on an ongoing basis with appropriate entities in Nunavik, the Northwest Territories, and other Canadian jurisdictions that have significant indigenous populations with respect to identifying and implementing best practices in the area of police oversight.

I also wish to note that it is the standing committee's understanding that the federal Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has undertaken to conduct a systemic review of policing activities in Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to the release of this review, which the standing committee understands to have been delayed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(interpretation) I will conclude today by recalling that a motion to extend the standing committee's review period for this bill was introduced, considered, and passed during our recent winter sitting. I am confident that all Members of the Legislative Assembly will recognize that the additional time and effort that was taken ultimately resulted in a better piece of legislation being passed for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towntongie. (interpretation ends) Do members have any general comments? Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good day, minister. Looking at the laws in Nunavut, I have noticed that whenever someone is being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or there is a complaint to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, people often do not know where to turn to. Is there a place where they can turn to in Iqaluit, or do they always have to make a phone call to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's office in southern Canada that was mentioned in the opening comments?

This bill is about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We as Inuit have our own culture and we have been told that it is the most unique culture in Nunavut, and now this bill is going to come about.

From the cultural advisor aspect of it, from what I understand in reading Bill 53, *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*, yes it is improving and Nunavut's abilities are going to be more highlighted through this bill.

I, myself, will support the bill because it incorporates *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and people will now know where to turn to in Nunavut, and those complaints will not just go on and on, and the people of Nunavut will know what's happening. The Department of Justice and Inuit can have the same idea about this, so if amendments are needed, I'm sure we'll make amendments because our culture is quite unique and the police have been up here for a number of years. They get transferred around. People who want to file complaints will have more rights to file them under Bill 53.

Lastly, I would like to say I will support this bill and if my constituents want to ask me why I supported this, I can explain it to them. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about this, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to make a very brief comment regarding the bill in front of us. We worked very closely with the minister when we were dealing with this bill in Iqaluit and we had correspondence going back and forth between the regular members or the standing committee and the minister.

Madam Chairperson, we will have a close working relationship between Inuit and the RCMP. I'm very pleased to see this bill and I will be supporting it. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names. (interpretation ends) We'll go to Bill 53 in your binders. Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Keep going over to the last page. Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to Bill 53 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to put Bill 53 on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Closing comments, minister.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to express my thanks to the committee. The standing committee did, as one of the members mentioned, have numerous back and forth correspondence and I think where we were able to adapt to some of the comments and the feedback, I think, made this bill a little bit stronger, and where we weren't at least we're able to clarify with members an understanding of why we went down certain paths.

I do look forward to the regulations being developed on this bill and implemented. I think this is a massive step forward for policing oversight across Nunavut and I'm really looking forward to the implementation of this piece of legislation. I can't thank my deputy minister and obviously Thomas Ahlfors as well. There has been a lot of work put forward with this bill. It may seem to the public to have gone through very quickly, but there was a lot of work behind the scenes with the standing committee, within the department and with other stakeholders and partners. So I just want to thank everyone for the hard work they put forward in this and it is a giant step forward for Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Hickes. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

We will now proceed to the review of Bill 65 with a different minister and we will get set up for that, so give us a few minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 16:40 and resumed at 16:42

Bill 65 – Apprenticeship and Certification Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairperson: Ms. Sheutiapik, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Yes, please, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Does the committee agree to let the minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: For the record, Minister Sheutiapik, please introduce your officials and then proceed with your opening comments. Ms. Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Chairperson. To my left is Robert Clift, Director of Career Development; to my far left is our Deputy Minister, Yvonne Niego; and next to her is Thomas Ahlfors, Acting Director of Legal Services.

Unnusakktu, Madam Chairperson. I am pleased to be before you and the rest of our colleagues today to review Bill 65, which rewrites the current Act and renames it as the *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*.

My staff and I have been fully engaged with the Committee of the Whole during their review of this bill and I would like to thank the Committee of the Whole for their constructive comments and suggested amendments to the bill. The Department of Family Services, in response to Committee of the Whole enquiries, is putting forth eight motions to amend the bill.

Once approved, the new legislation will provide new options for trades and occupational certification. There are four primary themes in the changes proposed to Bill 65:

1. Provide more options for trades and occupational certification, such as a skilled trades worker certificate, and a non-exam route to journeyman for experienced and long-serving Nunavut trades workers.
2. Increase the quality and flexibility of assessment of on-the-job training, including the ability to accumulate apprenticeship hours with multiple employers and increased authority to monitor on-the-job training.
3. Create the framework to introduce compulsory certification trades to improve public safety for trades such as oil heat systems technician.
4. Place more responsibility for the direction and administration of the apprenticeship certification system into the hands of the stakeholders by expanding the composition and role of the apprenticeship and certification board and by creating the possibility for ad-hoc advisory committees.

Madam Chairperson, 270 Nunavummiut provided input to the consultations through seven public meetings and dozens of one-on-one meetings with industry representatives, employers, journeypersons, apprentices, Inuit organizations, hamlets, and government officials. The Department of Family Services is confident that the proposed changes will have a positive impact on Nunavut apprenticeships and many Nunavummiut will benefit from these changes.

I look forward to continuing on the discussion on this bill and answer any of the questions today. *Qujannamiik*, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. (interpretation ends) Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Please proceed, Ms. Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, as John Main is unable to be here, I am taking his place. On behalf of the standing committee, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 65, the *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*.

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

(interpretation ends) During the minister's appearances before the standing committee to consider the bill, members raised a number of questions concerning the implementation of the legislation, opportunities for youth to be involved in trades and apprenticeship opportunities, and the importance of incorporating input from employers who provide employment opportunities.

(interpretation) The standing committee would like to thank the minister for agreeing to a number of suggested amendments.

Madam Chairperson, members look forward to receiving an update on (interpretation ends) the government's progress on addressing the recommendations that arose from its review and consultation activities on apprenticeship legislation across Nunavut. While the introduction of Bill 65, the newly proposed *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*, is one result of the consultation process, it is clear that a number of initiatives could improve the delivery of training programs and better support Nunavummiut in accessing training opportunities to further their careers.

The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 65 to all members. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Towtongie. (interpretation ends) I'm going to open the floor up for general comments. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'm very happy with this bill and I'm looking forward to Nunavut getting this piece of legislation. From my understanding, there are individuals who have worked for a very long time on a particular job and are very efficient and skilled at what they do, be it motor vehicles, heavy equipment mechanics, and so on, and I am very pleased that they will be able to get a trades worker certificate. I would like to ask the minister if that is the case. That's my question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you. That's my only question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) These are just general comments for now. As we go through clause by clause, Minister Netser, you can ask your question. Anybody else for general comments? Okay. Go to Bill 65 in your binder, please.

Bill 65, *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 2. Minister Sheutiapik.

Committee Motion 021 – 5(2): Amendment to Clause 2 of Bill 65

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: *Qujannamiik*, Madam Chairperson. After my last appearance, the department and I reviewed the question. I'm bringing forward a motion that reads: that clause 2 be amended in subclause (2) by replacing "17" with "16" and (b) by adding the following after paragraph 5(a):

"(a)(1) If applicable, the employer and the contract comply with the requirements reflecting the employment of minors under (i) the *Education Act* and (ii) the *Labour Standards Act* and its regulations."

I so move. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Sheutiapik. Clause 2, as amended. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Page 7. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under clause 7, (interpretation) I want to get clarification on this, (interpretation ends) “An individual may apply for the following certificates by submitting an application under subsection (2) to the Director:

- (a) a certificate of qualification in a designated trade;
- (b) a certificate of qualification in a designated trade with a Red Seal Endorsement;
- (c) a certificate of competence in a designated occupation;
- (d) a skilled trades worker certificate;
- (e) a board certificate;
- (f) a certificate of completion of apprenticeship;
- (g) a certificate of status;
- (h) a replacement certificate of any of the certificates listed paragraphs (a) to (g).”

Madam Chairperson, the underlying question is on “(a) a certificate of qualification in a designated trade.” Does this mean that many of our Inuit who have worked many years as carpenters or mechanics but have not had the opportunity to be an apprentice... ?

By the way, Madam Chairperson, when I was a power corporation operator, my real interest was in being a lineman and I wrote a letter to the president of day of the Nunavut Canada Power Commission, it was then, and told them that it was my desire to become a lineman. They wrote back and said that we don’t provide programs for natives under what you’re looking for. That was a real insult to my many years of service to the power corporation of the day.

My question to the minister is: just what does this mean? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The question he is referring to is best suited in clause 8, the certification of attestation. *Qujannamiik*, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Netser.

Mr. Netser: Okay, then, I'll just cancel my question to when we get to clause 8 without repeating it. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) ...if that's possible. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Netser, I called you "minister." Did you hear that?

Mr. Netser: I skipped that.

Chairperson: Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 8. Agreed? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to repeat my question to clause 7 onto clause 8. Can the minister explain that to the hearing audience? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Through you, Mr. Clift would like to respond. I, too, was understanding number 7 a little bit, but I was corrected, so I think he is best to answer this question through you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Clift.

Mr. Clift: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Section 8 of Bill 65 gives the authority to the new apprenticeship and certification board to create a process by which precisely those types of tradespeople that Mr. Netser has mentioned, those who have lots of experience and lots of knowledge, but for various reasons were unable to pursue the formal certification route, to demonstrate their knowledge not by exam, which is what we do now, but by attestation, that is other certified tradespeople in their trade will be able to examination that individual and give their oath that that individual can meet all the requirements of the trade.

The board will then appoint an examiner to review that evidence and may collect additional evidence and make a recommendation to the board.

This is a probation that will be open for 10 years only because it is a ameliorative measure to deal with the fact that historically, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have not done everything they could do to facilitate our Inuit tradespeople in achieving formal certification. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Clift. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is really good to hear this regarding clause 8.

We will be enacting this soon so when will this bill that we are dealing with be in force? When will it be implemented? Perhaps I should say that.

Chairperson: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) January 2023. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you. We are all looking forward to that day. Now my next question is with Mr. Clift's explanation, how would then, if I had worked for many years as a carpenter, but have not been... I know the qualities of the craftsmanship of a journeymen... How would they start the process of becoming a recognized journeyman in the field that I have been working in for many years? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I know that Robert would like to answer that, but I do know that there is going to be a fact finding, giving history of your employment and whatever courses you may have, but I know Robert is able to expand on that through you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Clift.

Mr. Clift: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I decided to reduce volume this time.

We still need to work out the regulations about precisely how that process is going to work, but the starting point will be that we are going to produce information packages that will explain the whole process in all four official languages, and essentially there will be a checklist of knowledge and skills that somebody will have had to achieved in order to qualify for this, and they will be provided with that checklist and maybe we will do a self-assessment first, and then we would bring in those people who were giving their oath that the person would have those skills, and then finally appointing the examiner to look at all of that evidence. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Clift. If I could just supplement to that question, I'm wondering if somebody is missing one or two checkmarks, how would the department would deal with that. Is that something the department would work with that person? Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question, and I know through the consultation that's why there's been not just regulations changes but policy changes as well to try and best accommodate people who might be in our system within Family Services to get them out. So I know our department is working diligently, but I don't know if Robert wants to expand, through you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Clift.

Mr. Clift: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If an individual was to take the exam route to getting certification, the passing grade of the exam is 70 percent. So in this non-exam route there will also be wiggle room to allow for people who may not have the full range of their trade but who substantially know what to do. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Clift. That sounds very good. (interpretation) Anything, Mr. Netser?

Mr. Netser (interpretation): That is all and I thank him very much. That is all I have. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Kaernerck, you're next.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The question was just answered so I'll ask this question. Some of us we learn from observing, however many of us may not have the writing skills.

Here in (interpretation ends) clause 8 subsection 4, verification process. (interpretation) Now if I applied or start the process and my skills are being reviewed and I may have knowledge to work in a particular capacity, but not able to write it down, is it like taking a picture for example? Can that be considered by the examiner? Does this imply that if I had a particular skill and you use that as an example of proof? Thank you, Madam Chairperson. That is my only question.

Chairperson: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I know we have had many discussions on how to improve so that our students succeed the most, but that particular question our member is asking I'm not sure, so through you, if Robert could respond. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Clift.

Mr. Clift: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Precisely because this is an ameliorative clause to deal with the fact that NWT and Nunavut historically have not provided all the support they could have provided, that we will work with each candidate to decide what is the best way for them to demonstrate their ability. So if the candidate does not feel

comfortable in working in English, then we will find an examiner that speaks Inuktitut fluently and they will work with that person and will not have to present themselves in English.

Again, as I said; historically we've not done the best job in supporting our Inuit tradespeople and that's what we're trying to resolve here. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I think he's finished. (interpretation ends)
Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Madam Chairperson: Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Page 11. Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 40. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 41. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 42. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 43. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 44. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Clause 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree to Bill 65 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Do members agree that Bill 65, as amended, can be put on the orders of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Closing comments, minister.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just want to thank the department and the communities and the employers that were involved. I think this is one division that always excites me, but I think this Act excites me even more because moving forward, I believe, we're going to create more qualified people. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses out. We've just got to figure out what we're doing next. Hold on a second.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I move a motion to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kaernerck. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Angnakak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 53, 65, and 72 and would like to report that Bills 53, 65, and 72 are concluded and can be placed on the orders of the day for third reading and that one committee motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kusugak. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 72 – Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023 – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 72, *Interim Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Sorry about that. Let's try this again. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 72 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Sheutiapik.

Bill 65 – Apprenticeship and Certification Act – Third Reading

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Cambridge Bay, that Bill 65, *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 65 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Same minister, different portfolio.

Speaker: Sorry. Minister of Justice, go ahead, Minister Hickes.

Bill 53 – An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act – Third Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 53, *An Act to Amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Agreement Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 53 is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that there is a Zoom meeting of the Standing Committee on Legislation tomorrow morning at 10:30 Eastern Daylight Time.

Orders of the Day for June 8:

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 73
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 8, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:15*

