

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

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

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

David Qamaniq
(Tununiq)

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)

*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment;
Minister responsible for Immigration;
Minister responsible for Indigenous
Affairs; Minister responsible for the
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(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Community and Government
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Energy Corporation*

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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Minister responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Workers' Safety and
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responsible for the Status of Women*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Education; Minister responsible
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:31*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Quassa)(interpretation): Good afternoon. Before we proceed, Member Keyootak, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): My fellow members are in the House. Nunavummiut who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, I warmly welcome you as we proceed.

Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 658 – 5(2): Katujjiqatigiinniq Leaders Meeting

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good day” to you, and to my dear daughter, have a safe trip today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to update my colleagues on an important partnership: the Katujjiqatigiinniq Leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, on January 21, 2020, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut renewed their relationship through the signing of the Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol to formalize our organizations' commitment to work together on shared priorities. Since the signing of the protocol, officials have met regularly to discuss our work and I have met with President Kotierk numerous times to share information, plans, and important milestones.

On March 18 of this year, this partnership took our cabinet to Baker Lake to participate in Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's board of directors meeting for our yearly leaders' meeting. We discussed both the Katujjiqatigiinniq Article 32 Policy and Article 32

Information Sharing Agreement, as well as their recent infrastructure report and our government's continued response to the global pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated share common priorities and challenges in much of our work. It's in the best interests of our organizations to join efforts to improve the economic, health, social and cultural well-being of Nunavut Inuit. We want to help people and improve lives. We must work together on Inuit identity and culture, foster better quality of life for Nunavut Inuit, and ensure Inuit participation in the design and development of government process. I'm proud of our joint commitment and look forward to continuing this important work.

I would also like to thank the community of Baker Lake for their warm welcome and hospitality. I'm thankful we were able to be there before the COVID-19 outbreak and visit one of our beautiful communities. That's for Mr. Mikkungwak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 659 – 5(2): Arnait Tulliningit Women's Leadership Forum

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

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, I am pleased to announce that the department will be hosting the Arnait Tulliningit Women's Leadership Forum this coming August 2021.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Department of Family Services recently received joint funding from this government and the federal Department of Women and Gender Equity to undertake a three-year project focused on strengthening women and girls' leadership and governance skills.

In the fall of 2019 my department organized and hosted the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction's Makimaniq Plan 2. Our partners and participants expressed the need for more start-up supports, capacity strengthening opportunities, administrative support, knowledge and resource sharing opportunities for Inuit women across our territory.

Uqaqtitsijii, the Arnait Tulliningit Women's Leadership Forum will bring together Inuit women from all ages and experiences to discuss topics such as business, politics, media, language, culture, and governance. This forum will be focused on building the capacity of women and girls, empowering one another as leaders, strengthen self-reliance, while inspiring participants to become decision-makers within their communities.

(interpretation) I encourage many of my fellow women to participate in the forum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 660 – 5(2): Onboarding Program in CGS

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, everyone and to my colleagues here.

Uqaqtii, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to announce that on April 16, 2021 the Department of Community and Government Services launched its Onboarding Program for new employees. The Onboarding Program is designed to support employees who are either new to the department or new to Nunavut to successfully integrate into the department, familiarizing them with Inuit culture, as well as the attitudes, knowledge, skills, and behaviours required to work effectively in the Government of Nunavut.

In the spirit of Tunnganarniq, the program aims to make employees feel welcome and be better prepared to undertake their jobs.

The online, interactive program is delivered in two distinct components:

- Supervisor Onboarding – this provides supervisors with checklists to guide them through task completion and to integrate them into Community and Government Services by providing them with clear direction and expectations, while ensuring they are welcomed, and their contributions valued; and
- Employee Onboarding – this provides new employees with a personalized online learning environment with content that includes audio recordings, videos, slide shows, quizzes, and Internet links to engage employees.

Uqaqtii, we are very happy to see that there are employees participating in this program and we hope that there will be more Community and Government Services staff who will benefit from this initiative. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 661 – 5(2): Isolation Hamper Support Program

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank you for this opportunity to share some good news about the important work that is being done to support Nunavummiut and help us eliminate the spread of COVID-19 in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month our chief public health officer informed us that individuals are breaking isolation because they do not have adequate access to food and other essential items. Without food and essential supplies, Nunavummiut cannot successfully complete their isolation and COVID-19 could continue to spread in Nunavut.

In response to the chief public health officer's announcement and based on learning from the outbreaks in Rankin Inlet and Arviat, the Government of Nunavut responded to the need by creating a free territory-wide hamper program to provide additional support for individuals and households placed on isolation.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's Isolation Hamper Support Program was launched on May 14. Within the first week of operations over a hundred hampers were distributed to Nunavummiut in isolation. This essential program is being operated by my department, the COVID Secretariat, and the Department of Health. I would like to thank all the people who worked so quickly and tirelessly to get this program up and running.

Mr. Speaker, this is a challenging time for Nunavummiut, but we will help each other get through this. We all have a part to play in eliminating the spread of COVID-19 in our territory and I am pleased to highlight this new program today as a key step towards achieving that goal. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 662 – 5(2): Appreciation for Nunavut's Education Community during COVID-19

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, this past year has been a time of many adjustments for Nunavummiut due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to show my respect and appreciation to all members of the education community in the territory. Students, school staff, parents, guardians, and other education partners have worked together to face every challenge head on during this pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, our education system depends on many pieces working together effectively. Students, school staff, parents, guardians, and other education partners play essential roles as pillars of our education system. When we work as one, we can ensure the success of our children, youth, and young adults.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the education community for all their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. School staff, district

education authorities, the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut, the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities, the Nunavut Teachers Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the regional Inuit organizations have all worked tirelessly on behalf of our students. Because of your creativity and adaptability, students have been able to continue learning safely in class and at home.

Mr. Speaker, the challenges all Nunavummiut have had to face throughout the pandemic are unprecedented. By supporting remote learning and ensuring the health and well-being of our students and school staff, our education community united together for the good of the territory. You have shown that any challenge can be overcome through collective resilience, determination, and strength. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 663 – 5(2): COVID Vaccine

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. In January 2021 the Department of Health began its vaccination campaign at the elders' home in Iqaluit. Since then, two mass vaccination clinics have occurred in every community in Nunavut, giving all adults, frontline health care staff, and rotational workers in the territory the opportunity to receive this life-saving vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud with how quickly the Department of Health worked to roll out the vaccine across Nunavut. As of June 8, 71 percent of people in Nunavut aged 18 and over have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 60 percent are fully vaccinated...

>>Applause

...which is a source of pride, and that number increases every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to share that on May 31 we officially announced vaccine clinics for youth aged 12 to 17. This is an important step for Nunavut because our population is so young. More than 40 percent of Nunavummiut are under 18 years old. The vaccine will be available in every Nunavut community beginning June 15. Community vaccination schedules are available on the Government of Nunavut's website. I encourage all parents to vaccinate their young ones; it will help keep everyone in Nunavut safe.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure Nunavummiut who want the vaccine have access to it, every health centre in Nunavut has the supplies necessary to continue vaccinating. It is as simple as calling the health centre to make an appointment. There is still room for improvement, and I encourage all Nunavummiut who are eligible to get one of these safe and effective vaccines. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 664 – 5(2): Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act and Director of Forfeiture

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to share two pieces of news regarding the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*.

First, please join me in wishing a warm welcome to our new Director of Forfeiture, David Lawson. David Lawson joins us following his successful graduation from the Nunavut Law Program. David is an Inuk, a former member of the RCMP, and is now a trained lawyer. David's background and skills make him uniquely suited for the work of this office, and we look forward to seeing what he will do in this important role.

Secondly, I am happy to announce that, following the approval of the necessary regulations, the Department of Justice has brought the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act* into force, effective April 1, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, this Act creates an important tool to address criminality in Nunavut and I look forward to the positive impact the office will have under the leadership of its new director. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Continuing on. Members' Statements. Before we proceed, I wish to make a statement, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Speaker's Statement

The former Member of the Legislative Assembly for South Baffin in the Third Assembly, Fred Schell, we heard has recently passed away. Let us remember him as Nunavummiut.

Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 951 – 5(2): Elder Care

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the conclusion of this session, I want to first extend best wishes to my fellow regular MLAs and to thank them firstly, and although we don't always agree on issues and sometimes descend into

hot debates, nonetheless, I appreciate my fellow MLAs for providing tremendous support to me, so I thank you all.

Mr. Speaker, in talking about our elders and facilities in general, all MLAs along with the government and our executive members as well care for our elders. I would like to express my appreciation to the Minister responsible for Health. After our vigorous debate about the issue on June 3 within this House, he made this statement which I will quote in English. (interpretation ends) “Do we want an elder facility in every community? Very much so. I am in support of that.”

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the wording voiced, in hearing that as a regular member, was exceptionally pleasant to my ears, as the Minister of Health voiced that, and we have to support that. Yes, let us start working towards that and be inclusive of all communities and make elder programs and facilities for elders available urgently. Starting from the smallest to the biggest community, all communities must be involved.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, is this impossible? No. Is this easy? No. But is it worth it? Yes, I say yes. Mr. Speaker, we can make elders facilities in every community happen, but the government will need partners to do this. I would suggest the federal government and Inuit organizations as ideal potential partners.

Mr. Speaker, the discussions and the debates about elders facilities and services cannot die with our Assembly. The work must continue and we must continue pushing to empower all communities in Nunavut to keep their elders at home in their home community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Member’s Statement 952 – 5(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq Graduates

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I had the privilege of serving in the Third Assembly with Mr. Schell; my condolences to the family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the 2021 graduates of the community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the pandemic has been hard on our students as they struggled to continue their studies despite being unable to attend school. I commend them for their dedication in these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, the 2021 Patsaali High School graduates are:

- Michael Audla
- Ida Emikotailuk

- Lottie Iqaluk
- Sara Ippak
- Louisa Geela Qavvik
- Simeonie Uppik

Mr. Speaker, as I have often said in the House, education is a key to a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Paul Amagoalik on being named on the 2020-21 Dean's List for Academic Achievement. Paul achieved an overall average of 87 percent in the Office Administrative Program at Nunavut Arctic College and will be placed on the honour roll.

I congratulate Sanikiluaq's graduates on their important achievements, their dedication and perseverance has paid off. I encourage them all to continue their path on lifelong learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 953 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon Nunavummiut, Naujaat and Coral Harbour. Mr. Speaker, I am kind of hesitant to speak of this matter, but today I want to comment on the COVID-19 pandemic as every person holds different mindsets, and Mr. Speaker, as elected members, we have to voice our thoughts on issues affecting our constituents, especially when you receive calls about the issue.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to make a statement today about the COVID-19 vaccine campaign. I recognize that not everyone will agree with what I have to say, but we have the privilege of speaking on behalf of our constituents in the House. A number of my constituents have shared concerns with me about this issue. It is very important that the government hear what they have to say.

The first issue I want to touch on is the issue of consent. I do recognize and understand that the government is not formally requiring our residents to get the vaccine, but I have heard concerns from constituents, including unilingual elders, expressing concerns to me that they have felt pressured to get vaccinated.

Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between encouraging people to get vaccinated, and belittling, mocking, or stigmatizing those who choose not to get vaccinated for what are often deeply personal reasons.

I also want to emphasize the importance of respecting parental rights. I firmly believe that parental consent should be required for children who are 18 and under in respect to

this vaccination campaign. Inuit children were taken forcefully from parents to attend residential school without the parental consent.

We just received news recently, Mr. Speaker, that 215 young bodies were discovered. They were forcefully taken away from their parents to attend this residential school.

I also believe that the government needs to be clearer with the public about its plans. Earlier the government indicated 18 and under would not need to take the vaccine. After a year of lockdowns and restrictions and changing goal posts periodically, people are tired.

Mr. Speaker, people were given to understand that getting vaccinated would mean a return to something that... .

Speaker (interpretation): My apologies. Mr. Netser. Your time has expired for your member's statement. If you would like to continue, you can ask for consent to complete your statement. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. Sorry, I apologize. I didn't look at my time. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for allowing me to proceed.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, people were given to understand that getting vaccinated would mean a return to something that more closely resembles the normal lives that we want back so badly. We have to ask ourselves if this is actually happening.

Mr. Speaker, talk of vaccine passports and enhanced information sharing between governments has many people worried. How far should we be going in asking people to give up their privacy and mobility rights? We are now living in a communist country from what I have been hearing from my constituents.

We do not yet have clear answers to these important questions, but I believe that it is vital that we continue to ask them and I encourage many Nunavummiut to voice their concerns when they do have them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 954 – 5(2): Pride Month

Mr. Lightstone (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Today I stand to address and recognize Pride Month. I must apologize to the LGBTQ+ community, as I did not intend to save this statement for the last day.

Mr. Speaker, Pride Month is to recognize the inequalities faced by and achievements accomplished by the LGBTQ+ community. Not too long ago, people were persecuted for their sexual orientation and gender identity, and today there are select groups who are prohibited from donating blood and some who are subject to conversion therapy here in Canada. Across the world and here in Nunavut, intolerance has people hiding for fear of other people's reaction.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and I am an ally. For those who are intolerance and spew hateful comments, I am not your ally.

Lastly I would just like to state that I believe in inclusivity, equality, and freedom for all. Happy Pride! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 955 – 5(2): Spring Sitting

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my constituents in Pond Inlet and my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, today is our last sitting of spring sitting. Thanks to Mr. Speaker and his staff for accommodating me through Zoom and thanks to the staff at Larga for their hard work.

I am looking forward to being back in beautiful Pond Inlet very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 956 – 5(2): 2021 Rankin Inlet High School Graduates

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For us Inuit, June is always called *manniliurnniq* in our area as our ancestors named it in previous generations as the month when eggs are laid. Nonetheless, I want to acknowledge a person, and I wish all residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet a beautiful day.

I would like to recognize the students who will be graduating in Rankin Inlet, youth for 2020-21 in whom I am very proud:

- Julia Angoo
- Kathleen Connelly-Clark
- Nelson Etuangat
- Parker Faulkner
- Mary Gibbons
- Amber Graham
- Edward Kabluitok
- Leo Kaludjak
- Xzavier Kubluitok
- Dylan Kusugak
- Riley Lachance
- Addy-Belle Lindell
- Israel Makta
- Tia Maktar
- Wendy Manilak
- Joel Netser
- Rachel Oolooyuk
- Jesse Qiyuk
- Rebekka Sanguin

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I'm seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): ...(no audio)...

Ms. Towtongie: Okay.

- Scott Sigurdson
- Nolan Tattuinee
- Sakkataaq Zawadski
- Sanisha Nakoolak
- Catherine Quinangnak.

(interpretation) These are 24 graduates this month. I congratulate all the graduating students in the month of June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of our graduates in Nunavut. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Member's Statement 957 – 5(2): Cooperation during COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, good morning to my colleagues, ministers, and Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to see that you're back in your chair. I send my condolences to the family of Mr. Fred Schell. They are in our thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge that it has been a hard year for everyone and we are working as hard as the cabinet members. Though there maybe disagreements among us at times, we continue to work together and that is what keeps us going. We do argue at times, but cooperation and working together is what keeps us going. Also, the officials are working very hard on our behalf.

Lastly, I am very glad that we, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, are working together because it's very important to work together in any situation. Whether you're with the government or with a private organization, there is a saying that "if a family works together, they're going forward," and I'm very pleased to say that even though it has been a challenging year, we will get through it. Let's keep going forward. Mr. Speaker, that is my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 958 – 5(2): Islamophobia in Ontario

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I go to my statement, I'd like to congratulate Mary Piercey-Lewis as the 2021 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the Afzaal family, who were killed this week in a senseless act of terror and Islamophobia in London, Ontario.

Salman Afzaal, his wife, Madiha Salman, their 15 year-old daughter, Yumna Afzaal, and grandmother, Talat Afzaal, had their lives taken away from them as they took one of their daily walks as a family, for no other reason than being Muslim.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we as Nunavummiut condemn acts of hate and violence such as these. Intolerance, racism, and hate have no place in Nunavut.

As a member representing the riding with Nunavut's only mosque, the Iqaluit Masjid, I wish to lend my support to the Muslim community here in Iqaluit and Nunavut who are witnessing another act of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate against a religious and cultural community.

Mr. Speaker, a Muslim community is a cherished and valued part of our territory. The Islamic Society of Nunavut has contributed to our community in many ways, most notably helping those in need through their Arctic Food Bank program and with acts of volunteerism across this territory.

If I may repeat the words of Muhammad Wani of the Islamic Society of Nunavut, “We are committed to serving all those in need, irrespective of religion, nationality, caste, or creed. I truly believe the love for humanity surpasses the demographic, religious and cultural barriers.” Mr. Speaker, these acts of service embody the same societal values that we share as Inuit: Inuuqatigiitsiarniq, Tunnganarniq, and Pijitsirniq.

Mr. Speaker, the terrible tragedy in London reminds us all that we must practise our societal values in making members of our Muslim and Islamic faith community feel welcome, included, supported, and most of all, safe in our territory.

To the Muslim community in London and right here at home in Iqaluit and Nunavut, know that we stand with you and against those who perpetuate hate and intolerance against our Muslim brothers and sisters. You belong here; hate does not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member’s Statement 959 – 5(2): Gjoa Haven Remembers Residential School Students

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We’re too far on the other end of Nunavut you couldn’t see my hand waving, but thank you for allowing me to speak and make a statement. Good afternoon to all Nunavummiut from Gjoa Haven.

My statement today is just for my community of Gjoa Haven, where they are remembering the residential school people and today are mourning the ones that never made it home, the 215. They’re remembering the people who never made it home. There will be a meeting at the hamlet office, doing some statements as well and doing a walk throughout the community just to remember the people who never made it home.

I want to say a big “thank you” to all of Gjoa Haven for taking part in this mourning and hope it will never happen again anywhere else, and I would like to ask my colleagues to say “thank you” as well to the community of Gjoa Haven for taking part of the program that they are planning today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 960 – 5(2): Racism and Intolerance

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also thinking of the family of Fred Schell, and send my condolences as we were colleagues during the Third Assembly and we would often smile at each other, and obviously, we also had intense arguments. He was a good man and will be missed by people of Kinngait.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, recently a grandmother, a father, a mother, and a daughter were killed and a son in hospital. They were run over by a vehicle, Mr. Speaker. The sad reality is it wasn't an accident.

Mr. Speaker, there is enough hate in this world without Nunavummiut adding to it. Mr. Speaker, there is no need to hate because of someone's colour, language, religion, race, sexual orientation, or belief. That needs to stop, Mr. Speaker, and it also needs to stop here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, our territory is vast, but our population is tiny. Instead of hating people because of their colour, their language, religion, or race, or sexual orientation, we should be celebrating each other's differences in race, sexual orientation, and religion. We should be celebrating each other's lives, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation) There have been many murders all around the world, and just recently in Canada there was a family who were out for a walk and they were intentionally murdered. Now there is going to be a young boy without his parents or his sister. They didn't do anything to deserve it, and they probably don't know who killed them, Mr. Speaker.

That shouldn't be the case. We have a very small population in Nunavut and we should be celebrating our differences and celebrating life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 961 – 5(2): Arctic Bay High School Graduates

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay there will be graduation ceremonies as well. I would like to congratulate the students, the parents, and the teachers and thank them. I am very proud of you. The graduates are:

- Dillon Tilley
- Lloyd Willie
- Kristy Uyukulu
- Cynthia Barnabas

- Cody Hughes
- Joanasi Sarpenak Kalluk

I congratulate all of these students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 962 – 5(2): Arviat High School Graduates

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat. I would like to congratulate the graduates from the John Arnalukjuaq High School. There are 42 graduates.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like read off the names of the 42 graduates in Arviat that are supposed graduate this year. Mr. Speaker, graduation is a happy moment and I always say it is not the end of school. It is to open the door to the next step of more education or more training, and I'm happy that there is such a high graduation class in Arviat this year.

Mr. Speaker, the names are:

- Ahmak Melven
- Akammuk Laureen
- Alareak Bedley
- Aliktiluk Clayton
- Aliktikluk Inukjuak
- Anawak Lexie
- Angalik Marcia
- Anowtalik Joseph
- Aulajut Elizabeth
- Baker Natalie
- Baker-Spence Donald
- Ikakhik Shayla
- Illnik Jaden
- Ishalook Roland
- Issakiark Aaron
- Issakiark Juanita
- Uvunirjuk Armond
- Kablutsiak Kyle
- Kalluak Megan
- Kaludjak Peter
- Kaviok Brayden
- Kidlapik Ocean

- Kigusiutnak Sephora
- Kinak Theophile
- Komak Monica
- Kopak Mila
- Kritaqlilik Siobahn
- Kuksuk Tristan
- Malla Macey
- Malla Shakira
- Manik Mae
- Mukynnuk Cheryl
- Nugnick Albert
- Okatsiak Ethan
- Owlijoot Kara-May
- Owlijoot Lucas
- Owlijoot Shawn
- Suluk David
- Suluk Neevee
- Tassiuk Jordan
- Ulayok Dwight

I apologize if I mispronounced your names. I congratulate all of these graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of these graduates. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 963 – 5(2): Kinngait High School Graduates

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel for Mr. Fred Schell's family. He was the former MLA for South Baffin and I know the family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as it is our last day. Listening to my colleagues, I am very proud of the graduates too. The school calendar is coming to an end, just like our sitting calendar is coming to an end, and I want to recognize the 2021 Kinngait graduates. They are:

- Nutaraaluk Alariaq
- Kevin Allooloo
- Sallumuni Ashoona
- Shawna Mike
- Iola Oshweetok
- Brooke Qatsiya
- Darlene Qatsiya
- Tommy Quvianaqtuliaq
- Mary Ashevak

- Nathen Samayualie

I know their parents and their families are all proud of the graduates and I encourage them to pursue higher education. There will be a graduation celebration on Friday and we will celebrate with them even though we are quite far away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We are very proud of them as well in Kinngait. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Member's Statement 964 – 5(2): Non-decentralized Communities

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, people of Amittuq and all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the people of Amittuq; the elders, youth, and even the people that didn't vote for me.

I rise today because ever since I became a member and rose in House, I just started sweating like crazy, but I'm getting used to it now. Thank you for looking down.

>>*Laughter*

I have always tried to speak on behalf of the smaller communities that are non-decentralized. We are far behind the other communities. When we come here, I get amazed that there is something new here again that wasn't there before. We want to see that in our small communities too.

As an example, there is *kakivak* here, and the *kakivak* is huge here, and in the middle is the seal hook and also the harpoon, and the one closet to me, is an *iqalututtiak*. Maybe where you're understanding where I'm going with this. People used to hunt by dog team even when there were snowmobiles around. We would get left behind as small communities. When you are on a dog team, the snowmobiles would just pass us and we would be behind.

It is like we, in the small communities are travelling by dog team. We are being left behind by the machines. Where are we going to go? 25 communities voted for Nunavut, and 13 communities became decentralized and have government offices, but for us in the smaller communities, we have a hard time keeping up. Sometimes we catch up for a bit, but then we get left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the government to review this again; working together, helping each other, partnerships, and engaging everyone. Where is that? I will stop this for now.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Premier of Nunavut on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Continuing on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Oh, I'm sorry. Let's go back to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I also say "good day" to the people of Pangnirtung.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide an answer to a question I took on notice on June 7, 2021 regarding a change of plan to build an additional public housing five-plex in Gjoa Haven this construction season instead of the staff housing units.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation consults with all local housing associations, such as the Gjoa Haven Housing Association, about their community's needs for public housing. The corporation responds by fulfilling those demands as best it can by planning the construction of such units. In this case the corporation is responding to housing needs in Gjoa Haven by using funding immediately available from the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative to build an unplanned and unexpected additional five units. Those funds are only permitted to be used to build public housing. The staff housing five-plex is delayed for this year and will go ahead next year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Continuing on. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. No. 6. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1383 – 5(2): Long-term Care

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health regarding elder care facilities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I envision that all communities should have an elder care facility, but I don't know if it will become reality and I don't know if it's supported by the government, so I have questions about it. I asked the Department of Health a written question on November 5, 2020. I will read part of the response.

(interpretation ends) “The Government of Nunavut determined that a facility of 24 beds, in two households of 12 beds, is the minimum size that would be built and operated, in order to be cost effective and to ensure staffing efficiencies and economies of scale.”

Mr. Speaker, this minimum size of 24 beds appears to pose a significant challenge for smaller communities hoping to someday have a long-term care facility or an elders’ home in their community.

My first question for the minister: does the department have any plans to revisit or revise the minimum size of long-term care facilities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When issues such as these are brought forward or if a request for a review arrives, we try to look at the most efficient or economical matter of accomplishing that. Even if it is expensive, the most effective usage of the funds is what we strive to undertake.

And further, once the staff who conducted the review such as my colleague referenced, they provided a report stating that if the facility held this many beds, then the elders’ care facility would not just be an elder care facility, but an intensive care unit that works with elders who require constant care by nurses, and we were informed that the maximum amount of elders resident that would be run most efficiently. That is the model we are following.

Nonetheless, there is a caveat there, Mr. Speaker, as I have stated previously on numerous occasions, that an ongoing report is being gathered to look at elders’ long-term care strategy outside of this initiative, and it seems obvious that we may be able to look at smaller facilities for the communities. At least that is my expectation on that matter my colleague asked about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Yes, this is news I like to hear, especially as it relates to smaller facilities designed for smaller communities, as it would fit more with their priorities, whether that be infrastructure or program funding that is provided for this initiative.

My secondary question to the minister is on the matter he just spoke to in terms of the elders’ strategy that the Department of Health is currently undertaking. To use smaller communities as an example, such as Whale Cove, will they be provided an opportunity to work on the strategy that was mentioned by the Department of Health? Will the smaller communities get an opportunity to contribute to this strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, with the current restrictions we are facing and based on these restrictions being eased, yes, we would prefer them to be involved, and we plan to go to communities, although we cannot visit them all. However, we will be patient in trying to get as many communities involved and consult them on the facilities they may wish to see.

Mr. Speaker, we have discussed the health facilities endlessly, actually the elder care facilities such as the one in Kitikmeot that was eventually rescinded, and currently regional centres have the regional hospitals, as we wanted the elders to be closer to a hospital so that they would get treated more quickly and to staff them with workers who can provide more intensive care. For elders suffering from disease, they may need to be at an acute care facility, and most elder facilities have that generic requirement.

Now, perhaps what we envision here is not a large one, but a smaller version that communities could develop so that elders could remain home. The member was envious that an elder facility was opened in the western Arctic, where these people could live in the same building but not the same room. We can imagine things like that in the coming years, but I just wanted to add this to my response that yes, we will be consulting with the different communities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My last question for the minister is: does the department have a partnership protocol or partnership policy that would allow or facilitate discussions around elders facilities with such entities as community development corporations or Inuit development corporations or Inuit organizations? Does the department have a policy or protocol in place that would help those discussions potentially? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of partnership relationships with Inuit organizations, or construction, or different corporations, that would most likely have to be done through some kind of agreement, and in turn, adhere to contracting and procurement policies, but I don't believe we have one at this time. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

Question 1384 – 5(2): Municipal Infrastructure

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

When I asked the minister questions last Monday about the status of Sanikiluaq's new hamlet office complex, the minister assured me and the community that this critical project was "still on schedule."

Less than 100 hours later, her department issued a notice that the tender for the project had been cancelled.

Can the minister clearly explain what exactly changed between Monday and Friday of last week in respect to this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question.

The member is correct that the request for proposals for a design and build was issued in March 2021, and unfortunately the request for proposals significantly exceeded the budget, resulting in the cancellation of the request for proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Her department's notice of cancellation indicated that the tender for the new hamlet office complex will be "re-issued under a different approach." Can the minister clearly explain what specific options are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for his question. Community and Government Services is going to advertise again for another request for proposals, which will close in June 2021. The request for proposal will be issued just for the design. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Issuing another tender for design and then eventually you will have to issue another tender for construction; I just don't understand how that is going to save the government money on this project.

As the minister is well aware, Sanikiluaq's municipal offices were damaged beyond repair last year. This new hamlet complex needs to be moved forward sooner rather than later. Can the minister clearly indicate if her department will require supplementary funding to keep this essential project on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member again for his question. The reason the request for proposal is coming in two stages is: the first one was request for proposal for design. Once the request for proposal for design is complete and it has been awarded, we will be including the Municipality of Sanikiluaq as a part of the design process. Once that is done, a request for proposal for construction will be submitted.

At this time, because of the estimates that came in beyond budget and cost-savings, Community and Government Services at this time won't know if there will be impacts on the budgeted amount that's allocated for this project. So until then, we don't know if Community and Government Services will be coming back to this House for a supplementary appropriation, but I'm sure that in keeping communication with the member, I will update him once we have all that finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Keyootak.

Question 1385 – 5(2): Baffin Island Caribou Management

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people listening to and watching our proceedings in Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, as well as to my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

The question I have is for the Minister of Environment. The Minister of Environment indicated that the caribou quota for Baffin region is 250 and that that quota has all been harvested. He also outlined which communities have used up their quota. I have always said the two communities I represent have not used their quota yet while other communities have.

Mr. Speaker, I have often mentioned here there are different caribou hunting grounds for each community. The two communities I represent for example; Clyde and Qikiqtarjuaq, have totally different caribou hunting grounds, and sometimes we hear some communities are able to catch their quota in just a day and some in a week.

However, with the communities I represent, it takes a long time to get to the hunting grounds because of the trail, and it's very inconvenient and difficult for the two communities. When the trail conditions are finally suited for safe and efficient access to the hunting grounds, the caribou quota is taken away and allocated to other communities that have exceeded their quota. Other communities that have very easy access to caribou often go beyond the allowable quota of 250, and basically what happens is that the quotas in the two communities I represent are taken away in order to compensate the other communities' overkill.

Perhaps the minister can indicate if there will be any changes made to that quota of 250 caribou. Should we expect an increase in quota, or does the Department of Environment have any expectations on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The caribou hunt is now closed as the quota was reached. This upcoming July 1, there will be another 250 that will be reissued to the Baffin region.

I have previously indicated that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is in charge of the distribution of the allowable quota of 250, and that it is at each community's discretion as to what they will do with the quota. If the communities follow the quota accordingly, the community of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River would not be closed. The reason is that some communities surpass the allowable quota, and that is the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clarification. This issue is a big problem for us. The communities know when they have exceeded their quota. Some hunters know what the quota is, but some hunters will go beyond what is allowable, and we usually find this out as Inuit.

Some hunters, though the allowable quota been reached, continue to hunt because they know the quota will be reduced in another community and this is a problem. It doesn't seem to be a problem for anyone when the quota is taken from one community to compensate another community.

In our community the big problem is the trail to the caribou hunting grounds. Mr. Speaker, perhaps in view of this the Minister of Environment can work closely with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board or the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that it is a problem, and the 250 tags are for all Baffin Island communities.

We are considering setting up a system with two different separate quotas; one for North Baffin, and one for South Baffin. It is dependent on the regional wildlife organizations. There would be a quota system set up for North Baffin and one for South Baffin.

If that is going to be the case, there would be more in the southern part of Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for that clarification. Mr. Speaker, 250 caribou tags is the quota for the whole of Baffin communities, and it is not divided per community. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board set up the system. We hear there is an increase in the population of caribou, and I think the two communities that I represent will never be able to use their entire quota because of the route and distance they have to travel.

If they had a good trail like the other communities, they would use up their whole quota. Is your department looking to increase the quota of 250, or what kinds of plans do you have for caribou in the Baffin region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a caribou population count completed this spring and we will find out what the total population is. After reviewing those numbers we will make a decision. We will count the number of calves that have been born.

We do know there has been a slow growth in the population. We will have to look at the numbers first before we decide if we are going to be increasing or decreasing the quota from 250. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1386 – 5(2): Fire Safety in Public Housing Units

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see you back in your seat again today.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. As the minister may be aware, an incident occurred yesterday in Kugluktuk involving a fire at one of the community's multiplex units.

I want to take this opportunity to express my relief that nobody was injured, and to pay tribute to the first responders who were called to the scene.

Can the minister indicate if she has been briefed on this incident by her officials? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question.

I am very glad that everyone is safe, but I'm very sorry that there was a fire in that multiplex unit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize and understand that fires are investigated by the Office of the Fire Marshal, which falls under the responsibility of the Department of Community and Government Services.

However, from what I observed yesterday, I think that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will want to be involved in this process so that improvements to fire safety in our territory's multiplex units can be identified and implemented.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is involved in the investigation of the incident that occurred here in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question.

With yesterday's incident, and with the review, it is a new case and we haven't heard the results of how the fire began. We are not involved in the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response and I look forward to further collaboration on this in other ways.

My last question on this one: one improvement that I believe can and should be looked at right away is the need for multiplex units to have more than one exit. From what I observed yesterday, this feature appears to be very lacking. Will the minister commit to having her officials review this issue and getting back to Kugluktuk's local housing organization at the earliest opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. We can review it, but during the meeting this morning, if it's a ten-plex or a five-plex and should there be a fire, we have fire retardant wood that is currently being used. For example, if a bedroom was on fire, they're using materials that would contain the fire to one area. We are concerned about the one exit, but when you're building a multiplex, it's cheaper. We have more fire retardant materials that are being used today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1387 – 5(2): COVID-19 Vaccine

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I still have some questions today for the Minister of Health regarding COVID vaccination processes.

Just over two days ago, we were informed by our government that residents that are fully vaccinated are approved by the federal government and the (interpretation ends) third paragraph says fully vaccinated travellers are exempt from isolation but will have to follow all public health measures in place in Nunavut.

(interpretation) Now, I wonder why we need to take this precautionary measure set up by the department, and we had expected that once people are fully vaccinated, the restrictions would be eased, yet when we were informed of the changes, we still have to follow these restrictions. Why do we have to follow the restrictions even though we're fully vaccinated? That's my first question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The restrictions are not deliberately kept any longer than required and we have to look after our residents who may not be vaccinated or who are unable to be vaccinated. Further, we know that some people, even when they have the double doses of vaccination, can still get the COVID sickness. With that being the case and when the majority of our population is vaccinated, especially our youth, as they form a large portion of our numbers, as we move forward, this requires that we maintain these restrictions for precautionary reasons, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier in my member's statement, I mentioned our children, and I want it understood as youth under 18 years of age are required to be accompanied by a parent or escort for surgery or other medical issues, and the parents usually have to sign a consent form to have the services provided. We have heard now that youth aged 12 to 18 will not require parental consent nor inform their parents if they go to receive a vaccination shot at the health centre.

For parents, it seems we are losing our parental rights as it is hard to see the underlying reasons for that, especially in following *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that we are constantly referencing both as a government and as a means of recognizing our elders' knowledge as one principle is "listen to your parents," yet this government seems to be advocating independence for youth who usually require parental consent for medical treatment. This is not visually pleasing and will be contentious. Why is it that you don't require parental consent to get a child vaccinated? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not breaking the law and Mr. Netser knows that. We have to look at whether we're breaching any rights. For example, if a child is going to be undergoing surgery and if any medication is required, we need parental consent. If they are going to be 18 tomorrow they can get vaccinated without parental consent, and looking at the maturity of the youth that are getting vaccinated, when Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated held their election for the president, the youth 16 and over children did not need parental consent.

We will be sending information packages out to the people. For example 12, 13, 14-year olds can get vaccinated, but we will have to make sure that they are fully informed. Also, if parents are concerned about their children being vaccinated, they should have a discussion with their child, or they can say that we will accompany them to the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know about the laws. I just was concerned about getting parental consent for vaccination because they do get that when they're going to go to the dentist or to be seen from a health professional. Just last week I had questions about the people who have not yet received their second vaccinations and the minister indicated that they're finding more and more about the vaccination and its effects. Are we just being used as (interpretation ends) lab rats? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Netser just told us that he completely understands these things, but I can advise the member that when we get a vaccine there is no computer program that follows that vaccine; we are not being used as guinea pigs as Inuit. There are how many millions of people who have received the vaccine around the world. Many people have had the vaccination and also request the vaccination.

There are vaccines for people who ask to receive it, and in other parts of the world they are still waiting for the vaccine to be available. Our health is very important, and we

consider our elders precious and people of Nunavut precious. That is why we want us to be first. If we are the first then are we lab rats? If we were provided with vaccines last, we would be the last, but I think the member is aware we're not being treated like lab rats and we don't think like that. We know the staff at the Department of Health have been working really hard during the pandemic and we thank them. People who are being vaccinated are not (interpretation ends) lab rats. (interpretation) They just want to be healthy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 1388 – 5(2): Day Rooms for Medical Travel Clients

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon MLAs and to the people of Baker Lake.

Today I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, some time ago my predecessor representing Baker Lake asked the minister's predecessor, the former Minister of Health about supports for elderly patients who were travelling home from medical travel and had a long layover in Rankin Inlet.

At that time, on March 02, 2017, the minister stated "Medical travel patients can get dayrooms that we have negotiated with hotels in Rankin Inlet so that if somebody is going to be there for a period of time, we can get them a day room, especially elders can get a safe, clean place to rest."

Can today's Minister of Health confirm whether or not this policy is still effect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my understanding, it is still in effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I'm glad the policy is still in effect. Can the minister confirm whether or not medical travel notifies each elderly patient that the option is available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are notified when it is available. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic that is going on, some of the services that we provide for our elders and medical travellers become not available, and unfortunately this

is one of them because of the pandemic and the situation with hotels, their availability, and staff. This is one of those that is not available until such time that the situation with COVID improves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. There is still a lack of accountability, if I can use that word, for ensuring elders are receiving dayrooms when there is a long layover. Can the minister ensure or commit to ensuring that his staff provides adequate dayrooms or adequate hotel room reservations for our elders so that they can rest peacefully in a safe, clean place when there is a long layover. Can I please get that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, that commitment is there when it is available. We currently have some protocols and procedures that we have to follow, and because of the COVID situation, not all facilities are available to take care of those requirements and requests because of many different issues all related to COVID and a lack of staff and space and ability to turn rooms around in such order.

When it becomes available, Mr. Speaker, I assure you our departmental staff will be on top of it and ensure that the services provided will be supplied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1389 – 5(2): Student-Educator Ratio

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. The Department of Education's formula for allocating educational staff to community schools has been very problematic for many district education authorities in recent years.

The department's policy of using student attendance numbers taken on one specific date often resulted in schools losing teaching positions.

Can the minister clarify what changes have been made to the formula which determines the number of teaching positions allocated to community schools, and specifically, how the department currently calculates the number of students in each school and how the number of students is reflected in the formula? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. The existing current student-educator ratio formula can be unpredictable and swing from year to year depending on enrollment and this has created fluctuations and challenges in terms of staffing in schools.

The existing formula does not include all school staff positions and has led to inequitable distribution of positions, so now we are looking at allocating school-based positions not based on attendance of students, but rather, the headcount of students, and these would also be capturing all school staff positions to ensure a more consistent and equitable distribution across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That leads into my next question. As the minister will recall, this Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation, devoted considerable time Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Information provided to the committee during our review indicated that the department was revising its staffing formula, which the minister spoke to, which would address concerns about teaching positions. I note, however, that the section in the legislation which provides for the student-educator ratio in Nunavut schools was not amended.

Can the minister tell us how the current student-educator ratio is impacted by the department's staffing formula? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We took a phased approach to implementing this new formula over a three year period, and we started off with student support assistant positions for this upcoming school year in the fall, so we are adding positions then, and then the next year we will be adding other Nunavut Employee Union positions; so Ilinniarvimmi Inuusilirijiit, school secretaries, custodial workers, and all of those will be adding additional PYs in the next year. Finally in the third year, our intention is to add the teaching positions, including language specialists and Nunavut Teachers' Association position in the final year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, the minister's response will lead right into my next and last question.

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been raised by the Iqaluit District Education Authority with respect to the allocation of teaching positions for Iqaluit schools. While the department

seems to have changed its methodology to account for the true number of students in a community, it now appears to include non-educator positions in its formula, just as the minister said just a while ago. As a result, a new formula is no improvement and continues to deprive district education authorities of the number of teaching positions necessary to deliver quality educational programs.

So Mr. Speaker, I am asking if the minister could commit to working with Nunavut District Education Authority, including the Iqaluit District Education Authority, to review his department's staffing formula to ensure that it meets their needs and the legislative student educational ratio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. We are working with the district education authorities in the communities and over the next three years we are investing, and this is a good boost for the school team, the school-based positions, and I believe this is a step in the right direction.

We will continue working with education partners, including the DEAs and all the communities, on what their needs are. If more resources are needed then we will consider what options we can proceed with, but at this time we are working with the three-year, phased approach on looking at the whole-school based positions, not just teaching positions and reflecting on the current needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1390 – 5(2): Non-decentralized Communities

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Amitturmiut and Nunavummiut.

During members' statements I indicated I wanted to ask a question. I did say earlier, Mr. Speaker, the smaller communities are very much behind in many areas in terms of the cost of living, housing, and recreation for our youth. Those are only three examples; the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I used a *qamutik* as an example to illustrate my point. Inuit used to run alongside their sleds and I imagine some hunters would get pretty tired doing that constantly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Premier to expand on what was discussed previously in meetings regarding the importance of cooperation and teamwork, especially as it relates to cooperation. I would like to ask the Premier: will you be able to cooperate and work

diligently with our elders and the smaller communities when it comes to the allocation of future capital investments, and what would that look like?

The first question I would like to ask the Premier is: what can the government do further when they talk about cooperation with Nunavummiut? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Working together with people is something we are constantly doing. The Members of the Legislative Assembly were elected in the communities by the elders and the younger generation. He was elected and he is the voice of the community, and as Members of the Legislative Assembly we work with him.

Mr. Speaker, so you may understand, we had an election and we will have an election soon and the new MLAs will meet here. The current government will participate as well. The ministers all will be selected by the elected MLAs and they believe, to ensure everything moves positively, upon being elected, and we were elected; you elected us to be in the cabinet. As a government we always have issue with funding, especially with capital funding, and we struggle with where we should allocate the funds.

Yesterday or previously, Mr. Akoak mentioned that on occasion MLAs have to make hard decisions. As a government, as cabinet, we constantly have to make tough decisions on a daily basis, and the lack of funding is a problem. Where are we going to use the funds for capital and not all the communities will get that funding due to the lack of resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, so then our elders give you very good direction. You have probably hunted yourself and you were probably taught more convenient routes to take. This should be our basis, and when it is our basis and our elders are our basis, the government will run more efficiently. It will begin to dawn on you it's the elders. He has a spot because of the elders. He didn't do it on his own, not by us.

I'd like to ask the minister, since he is also The Minister responsible for EIA and government, with regards to this deferral or (interpretation ends) carryovers for 2020-21, 2021-22, (interpretation) the department apparently provided this information to the Department of Community and Government Services to streamline and (interpretation ends) EIA provided CGS a proposed floor plan. (interpretation) This is what I was using as example with the *qamutik*. This is how smaller communities should be looked at.

Perhaps if I ask the minister this question: which is your priority when making decisions as a Premier? Is it our elders, your government deputy-ministers? Whom do you believe more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, our operations continue and we discuss financial issues during our consultations with deputy ministers, elders and the MLAs. Just recently, the regular members were not satisfied with the plans for the elders' facility in Cambridge Bay, and the MLAs rescinded the approval for that funding.

Now, we had to listen to the regular membership because you removed the funding for the elders' facility planning, and it will not proceed. However, I would like my colleague to clearly understand that our funds are severely inadequate, and some communities will not receive facilities.

The hamlet offices require ongoing work, health centres, schools, office buildings, and so on. Due to the many issues requiring our attention related to infrastructure, yes, it is unfortunate and sad not all communities can get a facility, but we do look at all of the communities, and what should be prioritized? We try to follow the priorities listed by the community when they identify their most urgent needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, funding will always be inadequate for our needs. However, when government decides to use funds, they generally charter plane, which is rather expensive as well.

Mr. Speaker, yes, regular MLAs here did vote to rescind some funding for the facility, yet the one earmarked for Rankin Inlet will proceed. As well, regular MLAs here on this side, also wish to see elder facilities.

Perhaps I can use this analogy, while I still have some time left. Our government ships our elders to Ottawa for acute care, and I imagine can cost quite a bit for the care of one elder. Perhaps I can pick arbitrary numbers. Let me use this figure for each person; let's say \$14,000 per elder down south.

I believe I was told previously that we have 34 elders situated at the elder facility down there. Multiply it by \$14,000 at 34 elders, and quickly adds up and is perhaps over \$500,000 or perhaps closer to \$900,000. Whenever we are looking to construct a multiplex, it usually costs around \$900,000 to complete.

If we had a facility here, and it was funded, then our youth would have job prospects to look forward to, and our elders would remain in Nunavut. As I asked the minister earlier, sheesh... I keep saying minister when I should say, the Premier of Nunavut.

Do you put more weight on the positions of the government, or more weight on your deputy minister, or is your priority to assist Nunavummiut? Which has more weight in his eyes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I try my best to be a good leader and that portion is very easy to answer. I use my ability to listen to people's advice, and try to get all positions laid out before coming to a decision.

I use my discretion and the various points raised by my deputies, and listen to other members from Nunavut and I try to listen to all opinions. It is unfortunate that our elders requiring acute care have to be sent south for care, but at this time we are unable to provided adequate care within Nunavut.

Now, that was why we looked to build the three regional facilities first, as we prefer not to ship our residents out of the territory, but we must take care of them properly. For elders suffering from either dementia or physical ailments, they require more intensive care, which is why they are sent to a southern institution.

The MLA's other constituency community does have an elders' care facility, situated in Igloolik, and I am glad that there is one facility there. There is another facility in Gjoa Haven. In Arviat, however, elders with mental or physical limitations cannot be cared for in these facilities and why they are sent out for care.

To reiterate, using my position as the Premier, to the best of my ability, I try to represent all Nunavummiut so that we can make some progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, please note... . Ms. Angnakak.

Motion 119 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

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

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

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

Question 1391 – 5(2): Marine Infrastructure in Chesterfield Inlet

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for acknowledging me. Good afternoon to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. I would like to direct my question the (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation) For the past three years I keep speaking out about the need for marine infrastructure in Chesterfield Inlet. I want to ask the minister if this facility will be dealt with in 2021, as the summer is approaching. What is the status of this project now?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for raising that question and I enjoy providing information. The federal funds we received were earmarked for marine infrastructure, but the review phase was deferred and is still late. We are anticipating this year that we may be able to complete the work.

We will be requesting more funding for the construction of the marine infrastructure, and we have applied for this funding. I also wish to thank her communities for providing proposals as we do have funds for those purposes, so I am answering with two reasons.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister for his response. Since it has been delayed, should we expect that the wharf will be built this summer? The area is quite dangerous. Children are playing in the area with a lot of rocks around and problems may arise with boat owners. Where is the government now as this is an urgent issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The facility she mentioned was already worked on, and the improvements required were identified. I am unsure if they have submitted further requests for funding as we use funds from the community road funding.

We have not completed the reviews of the proposals yet, and we are expecting the work to be undertaken this summer, although that is still to be decided. Once the reviews are complete, and the funding is available, I will inform my colleagues about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation for providing that important information, and I anticipate hearing about Chesterfield Inlet's proposal on behalf of the residents and myself, as we will be informed later on.

However, is there also a different project being worked on where the road was constructed towards Chesterfield Inlet? What stage is that project at now? I have not heard anything further as the Hamlet of Chesterfield was working on a road towards Rankin Inlet.

The other project will be for the entire Kivalliq region, and what is happening with that project now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This subject was brought up yesterday and I still have the same response. A tender will be issued next month so that we can initiate work on that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1392 – 5(2): Nunavut Airports

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to my constituents in Pond Inlet and my colleagues. I would also like to thank your deputy for chairing the proceedings, and I'm very glad that you are back.

(interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit some issues concerning airports in Nunavut.

As the minister will recall, the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March of 2016. That is over five years ago. This important report contains valuable information about our communities' airports, including the airport in Pond Inlet.

When I last raised this issue with the minister, he indicated that his department was working to update the report.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly indicate today when the updated Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment will be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still updating the report and it is near completion. I'm looking through it now and if it requires any

additional information included in the report, we will add it in the final editing, and once it is completed, we will table it in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. As the minister is aware, the *Nunavut Airports 20-Year Infrastructure Needs Assessment* discusses the importance of undertaking a feasibility study concerning the development of a jet-capable airport in Pond Inlet. Can the minister clearly indicate how his department has acted on this need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Access to jet service is part of our 20 year infrastructure needs; a very close look in terms our communities. In order for jet service to take place right now, it will require paving.

As I mentioned earlier during this session, when I was asked about a certain airport, we are looking at about a \$50 to \$100 million investment in terms of paving any of our airstrips that are here.

Today we are debating on long-term care facilities and all other priorities and we need to figure out what our priorities are. Jet service does not necessarily mean better service for the communities. The airline industry has gone a long way in terms of providing very good prop-aircrafts that are able to service the majority of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qamaniq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm what upgrades and improvements are planned for Pond Inlet's airport during the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are minor capital that are being worked on for the Pond Inlet air terminal. I believe the flooring was done, and when I passed through there, the wheel chair access was to be assembled.

There are a number of things that our department is doing. I don't have the full list here with me, but I will be very happy to provide that to the member outside of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1393 – 5(2): Pride Month

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

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement today, I recognized Pride Month, and I stated that I believe in inclusivity, quality and freedom for all. I also stated that I stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.

I would like to ask the Premier: what is the Premier and the Government of Nunavut's position? Does the Premier and the Government of Nunavut recognize the inequalities and hardships faced by the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the achievements and accomplishments by this select group? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated in this House many times that there is no room for discrimination, whether it is sex, race, or gender. I have said that many times and I have posted on social media about Pride Month and the government supports the gay community; the long acronym that my fellow MLA just said. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for his response and for his comments on social media as well as here in the Assembly in pledging his support for the LGBTQ+ community.

My next question for the Premier is, as far as I recall, over the life of this government, I have yet to see an official statement released by the government to recognize Pride Month, so I would like to ask the Premier if that is true, or if I am mistaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my recollection, I can't remember if we have done it or haven't done it, but I don't have an issue with stating that and doing it, but I'm almost certain that we have done it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for his response. I would like to ask the Premier, as the head of the Government of Nunavut, the he give direction that on June 1 of every year the Government of Nunavut will release an official statement in recognition of the hardships faced by the LGBTQ+ community here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, across the territory there are countless youth that are in a very difficult position. They are living in fear and shame for their sexual orientation and I would like to ask the Premier what he plans on doing for these youth that are in this position and how can the GN assist them in overcoming this hardship? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have posted numerous times on social media about my commitment to the LGBTQ community and to... I'm not sure how to say this, but I still think that what I have stated before is that no one should be discriminated at all whether its race, gender or sexuality; none of them.

If any youth is having any issues and hardships, then we have help lines that they can call. They can call someone to talk to someone. I'm sure there's other people in the community they can talk to, but no one should be suffering or be ashamed and alone. We should be able to talk about our needs, talk about what we want with others, and if anyone needs to talk we have help lines. We have counsellors that readily available with the GN to help anyone that's having any mental health issues at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1394 – 5(2): Niqahaq Project Partnership

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, earlier this year the hunters and trappers organization in Taloyoak won the Arctic Inspiration prize of \$451,000 for the Niqahaq Project. I had the honour of making a statement about the winning project during our recent winter sitting. This project includes a sustainable and monitored harvest, as well as cut and wrap facility to collect, prepare, and distribute food to the community.

In the winter 2021 sitting, the minister committed to having the Nunavut Development Corporation review a potential partnership with Niqahaq Project.

Can the minister update the House on the status of this work and can he confirm if there is funding available to support projects with potential employment opportunities under

the Nunavut Development Corporation's Equity Investment Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member asked a very good question. I looked at the possible answer this morning because I received a letter from that HTA and they requested to have a meeting with me. I am proud of the association's win and the fact that they are doing things. It's great that they're always doing things and they work with the Kitikmeot regional office and we want to work with them, and I want my colleague to expect a letter after it has been translated into Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I raised this issue in the House, the Minister indicated that he looked forward to his department working closely with the Niqihaqut Project, as he just mentioned in his response. Can the minister explain what specific actions have taken place in respect to this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our regional office over in the Kitikmeot has met with the organization and has gone through their plans, and the next step would be for the organization to put in an application for funding. As they have been told there are certain elements within their proposal that the department can support.

They are doing an exchange of information leading up to an application and going through and having senior management discussions with them. I am very pleased with the progress that has taken place to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister already answered what was going to be my last question, so I would like to ask this as my last question instead. When can they submit an application for funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have asked for a proposal documents from the hunters and trappers association. Once we receive that proposal, we can look at it. Both our staff and their staff have had good discussions

regarding to what they need. They fit within our departmental programs. For all communities, we ask all of our communities to submit proposals to make their communities better.

I am happy that that group is doing that. I expect that they will be submitting a proposal and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation normally approves projects like that, and I am very happy they will be submitting this proposal.

I thank all of my colleagues for approving these finances that improve us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1395 – 5(2): Municipal Infrastructure

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they are concerning questions that I asked earlier today, and I just want some more clarification.

Earlier the minister stated that the project came in over budget for the hamlet office in my community. I wonder if the minister can update us on what the budget was and how much the tenders came in at to give us an idea of how much they were over budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I also thank the member for his question. The original budget for the Sanikiluaq office was budgeted for \$7 million. For the over-budget amount, I don't have that exact amount, but it was around \$1 million, but the budget was for \$7 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would appreciate if the minister could get the exact numbers back to me at her earliest convenience.

Mr. Speaker, last week in my questions, I talked about the need for alternate space that will need to be found for the municipality's staff. Last week the minister assured me that her department had been working to temporarily accommodate municipal personnel in the old health centre. Can she confirm today where this work is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with the hamlet and Community and Government Services on the office space in Sanikiluaq because of the incident that happened. With that completion, the Government of Nunavut will be repurposing portions of the existing health centre to accommodate the hamlet staff. With recent capital approvals of funding to construct the new hamlet office, we will be putting out an RFP for the new hamlet office. The hamlet office staff was accommodated at a construction camp, but we are working diligently to make sure that the hamlet staff will be in the old health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To renovate the old health centre will no doubt require a sealift order. I have not seen any tender issued yet for such a project to renovate the old health centre and we're already at the point that for the first ship sailing to Sanikiluaq, the deadline is just next week. Can the minister indicate when will a tender be issued for the renovations of the old health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Community and Government Services is working diligently on the renovation of the old health centre. At this time we don't know exactly how much money is going to be required to renovate the facility, but once I have that information, I can share it with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 1396 – 5(2): Gjoa Haven Staff Housing Construction

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I thank her for the information that she provided earlier today.

As the minister will be aware, the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority recently wrote a letter to the Minister of Education concerning the urgent need for more staff housing in the community for teachers.

Mr. Speaker, in her recent letter to me, the minister indicated that “the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to build an additional staff housing five-plex in Gjoa Haven to replace the units re-purposed this construction season.” Mr. Speaker, that is good news and I thank the corporation for taking this action.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm when the tender for these much-needed new staff housing units will be issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for the question.

For Gjoa Haven the Nunavut Housing Corporation's public housing builds and (interpretation ends) staff housing (interpretation) will be delayed for a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In her recent letter to me, the minister indicated that, "The Nunavut Housing Corporation applied for funding from the federal government through its Rapid Housing Initiative, launched in 2020, to create new affordable housing for vulnerable people and populations."

Can the minister confirm how much funding has been received to date under the federal Rapid Housing Initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question. The Rapid Housing Initiative that the member is referring to is for public housing, not for staff housing. The plan was to build two five-plexes in Gjoa Haven and we have continuously worked with the federal government but they haven't made any announcements as of yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, the recent federal budget announced that the Government of Canada "proposes to provide \$25 million in 2021-2022 to the Government of Nunavut to support the territory's short-term housing and infrastructure needs including priority redevelopment and refurbishment projects resulting in approximately 100 new housing units."

Can the minister confirm which communities will receive these 100 new units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. We have not received the memorandum of understanding yet for the funds that were identified by the federal government that the Government of Nunavut will be receiving. We are still waiting on the agreement, and once we receive it we will decide which communities the units will be built in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members note, the time allotted for question period has expired. Let us proceed. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit- Niaqunngu, Ms. Angnakak.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 084 – 5(2): Embassy West Senior Living Facility in Ottawa

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Health and they concern the subject of the Embassy West Senior Living facility in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, my written questions are detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Broken down by fiscal year from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, what were the total amounts paid to the Embassy West Senior Living Facility in Ottawa for the care of Nunavut Elders?
2. Broken down by fiscal year from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, what was the average cost per month paid to the Embassy West Senior Living facility in Ottawa for the care of Nunavut Elders?
3. Broken down by fiscal year from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, what was the average cost per client paid to the Embassy West Senior Living facility in Ottawa for the care of Nunavut Elders?
4. Broken down by fiscal year from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, how many Inuktitut-speaking staff provided services to Nunavut Elders at the Embassy West Senior Living facility in Ottawa?
5. Broken down by fiscal year from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, how many formal complaints or concerns were submitted by family members to the Department of Health regarding the care or support provided to Nunavut Elders at the Embassy West Senior Living facility in Ottawa?
6. With respect to the complaints and concerns listed in the answer to question #5, what types of complaints or concerns were raised and how were they resolved?

7. Broken down by fiscal year from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, and by type of inspection (scheduled, unscheduled, emergency), how many inspections were conducted at the Embassy West Senior Living facility in Ottawa?
8. With respect to the inspections listed in the answer to question #7, what procedures were followed in conducting these inspections at the Embassy West Senior Living Facility in Ottawa and what corrective actions were taken in response to findings of the inspections?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Ms. Angnakak's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is agreement.

Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Written Question 085 – 5(2): Administration of Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing 2021

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of year-end written questions to submit, the first of which I would like to submit to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation regarding the administration of Government of Nunavut Staff Housing program.

Mr. Speaker, the written question is detailed and I would like to ask that it be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. As of March 31, 2021 broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
2. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were vacant?
3. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were occupied?
4. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (within the meaning of Schedule E of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy), how

many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 were owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

5. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit, how many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 were leased by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?
6. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, from which entities were the units referred to in question #5 leased? For each entity identified, please provide the total value of lease payments for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
7. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by size of unit, what was the average monthly value of the staff housing subsidy?
8. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency and territorial corporation), within the meaning of the “Sponsoring” provision that is provided for in Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy, how many casual, transient or contract employees of the Government of Nunavut were residing in staff housing units?
 - a. How much are each employing entity paying for housing non-GN employees?
 - b. Last year NHC indicated that leased units for those departments requesting units through a Memoranda of Understanding. The NHC invoices each department for the cost of the lease. However, independent to the NHC, each department will have its own agreements with the individuals. Please provide the details of each lease departments has with the individuals.
 - c. Does the employing entity cover the full cost of the lease, or is it deducted from the contract employees?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that Mr. Lightstone’s written question be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you. There is agreement. Written Questions. Mr. Main.

Written Question 086 – 5(2): Construction Training Plans

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a written question to submit today to the Minister of Family Services and it is on the subject of construction training plans.

Mr. Speaker, my written question is detailed and I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

1. For the fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, which specific Major Construction Projects with a labour component value in excess of \$1,000,000.00 had a training plan developed and completed with assistance from the Department of Family Services, as required through the GN standard contracting process?
2. For the Major Construction Projects referenced in the answer to Question 1, what was the contractor?
3. For each of the training plans referenced in the answer to Question 1, what were the specific training targets established within each, including those related to tradespersons and other positions?
4. For each of the training plans referenced in the answer to Question 1, to what extent were the training targets met by the respective contractors?
5. For training plans developed in cooperation with the Department of Family Services, how often are contractors reporting on progress or lack thereof to the department?
6. What are the elements of the department's performance monitoring system regarding the above-referenced training plans?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Main's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is agreement.

Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Written Question 087 – 5(2): Administration of Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing 2021

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second written question is to the Minister of Human Resources, and it is also among the series of questions; the administration of Government of Nunavut staff housing.

Again, Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I would like to request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency and Territorial Corporation) and category of position (Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional, Administrative Support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were Nunavut Inuit?
2. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency and Territorial Corporation) and category of position (Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional, Administrative Support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were not Nunavut Inuit?
3. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and employing entity (Government of Nunavut department, Crown agency and territorial corporation), within the meaning of the “Sponsoring” provision that is provided for in Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy, how many casual, transient or contract employees of the Government of Nunavut were residing in staff housing units?
 - a. How much are each employing entity paying for housing non-GN employees?
 - b. Does the employing entity cover the full cost of the lease, or is it deducted from the contract employees?
4. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, how many individuals were on the staff housing waiting list (within the meaning of subsection 4(c) of Schedule A of the Government of Nunavut’s Staff Housing Policy)?
 - a. How many of the individuals Nunavut Inuit?
 - b. How many of the individuals were not Nunavut Inuit?
5. As of March 31, 2021, what was the average length of time for an individual to remain on the staff housing waiting list?
6. As of March 31, 2021, what was the average length of time an individual resides in staff housing?
 - a. For Nunavut Inuit employees?
 - b. for non-Nunavut Inuit employees?

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Lightstone’s written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is agreement. You agree.

(interpretation ends) Written Questions. Mr. Main.

Written Question 088 – 5(2): health Staffing Status in Arviat and Whale Cove

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a question for the Minister of Health and it concerns the subject of health staffing status in Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I have provided a copy of my written question to the Clerk and I request that it be entered into the record as read.

1. Expressing the information in a comparable format to what was provided in Return to Written Question 45-5(2), what was the status of the Department of Health's staffing in the communities of Arviat and Whale Cove as of June 1, 2021?
2. (Example of Format:
3. By position in the Department of Health, which positions are currently filled by:
 - a) Indeterminate employees;
 - b) Term employees;
 - c) Casual employees;
 - d) Individuals on contract; and
 - e) Internal transfers from other positions and/or departments?)
4. As of June 1, 2021, which departmental positions in Arviat and Whale Cove were vacant?
5. For the period June 1, 2019, to June 1, 2021, to what extent have staffing issues (e.g. staff turnover and vacancies) had a measurable impact on the provision of health care services in Arviat and Whale Cove?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Main's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is agreement.

Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Written Question 089 – 5(2): Administration of QEC's Staff Housing 2021

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my third question in the series of questions regarding the administration of staff housing. Mr. Speaker, this next written question is for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as my questions are detailed, I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
2. How many of the units referred to in question #1 are reserved for transient use?
3. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation were vacant?
 - a. In response to the 2020 staff housing written question QEC had indicated that 16 vacant units which require major renovation. As Nunavut is in a housing crisis I would like to request an update on these units.
 - b. In response to the 2020 staff housing written question QEC had indicated that it, “received four housing units during the transfer of assets from Northwest Territories Power Corporation which are not maintained nor will be renovated for use as they are in a dilapidated state of repair. These units are located in Iqloolik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet & Taloyoak; QEC is looking to dispose of these four units and will work with the GN and the municipalities in this process.”
4. As Nunavut is in a housing crisis I would like to request an update on these units.
5. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation were not vacant?
6. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, and category of position (Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional, Administrative Support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were Nunavut Inuit?
7. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, and category of position (Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional, Administrative Support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were not Nunavut Inuit?
8. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how

- many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 were owned by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
9. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 were leased by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
 10. As of March 31, 2021, what was the average monthly value of the staff housing subsidy provided to employees renting staff housing units?
 - a. how many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 include utilities paid for by the employer, please provide the total cost of the subsidised utilities for the 2020-21 fiscal year.
 11. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, how many individuals were on the staff housing waiting list?
 12. In a previous response QEC had indicated that there were zero employees on the waitlist, and that there is an application process. Please provide details of the application process, how many employees applied in the last 3 fiscal years, and attach a copy of the application.

In a previous response QEC had indicated that there is not a Rental Assistance Program similar to that offered by The Government of Nunavut Staff housing Policy to ensure lower income employees in staff housing are charged affordable rent. QEC had indicated that :

“the housing compensation package for employees includes subsidized housing with rental rates that are lower than the GN’s rates. Also, QEC pays for water, sewer and garbage to the units which the GN does not. QEC believes this to adequately compensate for the lack of a rental assistance program.”

Why does QEC staff housing rental rates and subsidised utilities (such as electricity, water, sewer and garbage) differ than that offered by the GN staff housing program?

13. In a previous response QEC had indicated that the Corporation encourages homeownership by providing a household allowance to employees that are not in staff housing, as of March 31, 2021 how many employees receive this benefit?
14. In the 2018-2019 Annual report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Note 13 – other income, identifies housing recoveries of employees to be \$1,481,000. What was the total cost was of associated with Qulliq Energy Corporation’s staff housing in the 2018-2019 fiscal year?

15. The Nunavut Housing Corporation Schedule B – consolidated schedule of expense by type provides detailed expenditures by type for the staff housing program, can the Qulliq Energy Corporation provide the same level of detail for the cost of staff housing program for the 2018-2019 fiscal year?
16. This is a repeat of the same question I has asked last year. I have asked this identical question in previous years and received a detailed response, unfortunately last year QEC decided that this was no longer possible. Therefore I will ask it again, and that the response contain information similar to the response to written question 22-5(2) dated February 2019.

In the 2019-2020 Annual report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Note 13 – other income, identifies housing recoveries of employees to be \$1,628,000. What was the total cost was of associated with Qulliq Energy Corporation’s staff housing in the 2019-2020 fiscal year?

17. The Nunavut Housing Corporation Schedule B – consolidated schedule of expense by type provides detailed expenditures by type for the staff housing program, can the Qulliq Energy Corporation provide the same level of detail for the cost of staff housing program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year?
18. As the Corporation’s staff housing program is essential to program delivery, as well as the fact that the costly program represents 4% of total expenditures in 2017-18. Last year when I asked why are the costs not disclosed into the financial statements? The response was that Public Service Accounting Standards makes no request for this detail.

The cost of QEC operations, including costs of providing staff housing are covered by the revenues generated by the ratepayers. I believe that ratepayers have a right to know how much of their electricity bills are paying for heavily subsidised staff housing. Will QEC consider including more detail on the cost of staff housing in the next annual report?

19. Does Qulliq Energy Corporation currently lease staff housing units from Qulliq Energy Corporation employees?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Lightstone’s written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is agreement. Written Questions. Mr. Main.

Written Question 090 – 5(2): Enforcement of Orders under the Public Health Act

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have another written question for the Minister of Health, and it is on the issue of enforcement of orders under the *Public Health Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I have provided a copy of this written question to the clerk. It is detailed. I am requested that it be entered into the record as read, but I can read it if needed.

1. With respect to Orders made by the Chief Public Health Officer under the Public Health Act between March 18, 2020, and June 1, 2021, in relation to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic:
 - a) Broken down by Order, provision and community where the breach occurred, how many breaches of the Orders have been formally investigated and prosecuted by persons authorized to implement and/or administer and/or enforce the Orders?
 - b) What fines and/or other penalties for individuals have been imposed under the Orders?
 - c) What fines and/or other penalties for corporations have been imposed under the Orders?
 - d) How much fine revenue has been collected to date in respect to fines imposed on individuals and corporations under the Orders?
 - e) How many formal written warnings or other advisories concerning enforcement matters have been issued to date to individuals and corporations in respect to the Orders?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Main's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is agreement. Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Written Question 091 – 5(2): Iqaluit Public Housing Stock

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next year-end question is a follow up on a previous written question which I had submitted.

The next question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the subject is Iqaluit's public housing stock. Mr. Speaker, the questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

2021

1. As of March 31, 2021, how many public housing units were maintained in Iqaluit?

2. As of March 31, 2021, how many of Iqaluit's public housing units were occupied?
3. As of March 31, 2021, how many of Iqaluit's public housing units were vacant and,
 - a. Ready for occupancy;
 - b. Required minor renovations, and estimated date of completion;
 - c. Required minor renovations, and estimated date of completion; and
 - d. Unsalvageable, and estimated date of teardown

2020

4. As of March 31, 2020, how many public housing units were maintained in Iqaluit?
5. As of March 31, 2020, how many of Iqaluit's public housing units were occupied?
6. As of March 31, 2020, how many of Iqaluit's public housing units were vacant and,
 - a. Ready for occupancy;
 - b. Required minor renovations;
 - c. Required minor renovations; and
 - d. Unsalvageable

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Mr. Lightstone's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is agreement. Written Questions. Mr. Main.

Written Question 092 – 5(2): Employment of Journeypersons and Apprentices

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a question for the Minister of Community and Government Services and it is on the subject of employment of journey persons and apprentices.

Mr. Speaker, I have provided a copy of this question to the clerk. It is detailed. I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

1. For the fiscal years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021:
 - a) Broken down by trade, how many journeypersons were employed by the department?
 - b) Broken down by trade, how many apprentices were employed by the department?
 - c) What was the vacancy rate for journeyperson and apprentice positions within the department during this period?

2. How did staffing issues (e.g. turnover, recruitment) for journeypersons impact the operations of the department during the above-noted fiscal years?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that Mr. Main's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is agreement. (interpretation ends) Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Written Question 093 – 5(2): Department of Health Budget and Expenditures

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next written question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, this is another year end question, which I had asked in previous years, and I am requesting updated information regarding the Department of Health's budget and expenditures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry. My questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

2019-20

1. What is the breakdown of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) budget as approved in the Main Estimate's by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section in the Freebalance accounting software budget load for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
2. What is the allocation of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) Supplemental Appropriation budget by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
3. What are the details of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) budget transfers by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2019-2020.
4. What is the allocation of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) Revised Budget by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2019-20.
5. What are the details of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) Actual Expenditures by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

- a. For simplicity provide each section's actual expenditures as in Freebalance for each fiscal year, and add the department's year end adjusting entries not entered into Freebalance as a lump sum to the department total to match the Public Accounts.
- b. Where possible please provide a brief explanations for any variance where actual expenditures are in excess of (+/-) 25% of the revised budget.

2020-21

6. What is the breakdown of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) budget as approved in the Main Estimate's by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section in the Freebalance accounting software budget load for the fiscal year 2020-2021.
7. What is the allocation of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) Supplemental Appropriation budget by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2020-2021.
8. What are the details of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) budget transfers by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2020-2021.
9. What is the allocation of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) Revised Budget by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2020-2021.
10. What are the details of the Department of Health's Operations and Maintenance (Vote 01) Actual Expenditures by Branch, and how was each Branch budget allocated by Division and Section as represented in schedule B.1 of the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 2020-2021.
 - a. For simplicity provide each section's actual expenditures as in Freebalance for each fiscal year, and add the department's year end adjusting entries not entered into Freebalance as a lump sum to the department total to match the Public Accounts.
 - b. Where possible please provide a brief explanations for any variance where actual expenditures are in excess of (+/-) 25% of the revised budget.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Lightstone's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. There is agreement. Written Questions. Mr. Lightstone.

Written Question 094 – 5(2): NHC Capital Carry Forward March 31, 2021

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last written question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Again, this is a repeat of a previous year end written question requesting updated information on Nunavut Housing Corporation's capital carry forwards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Sorry. Mr. Speaker, again, my questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. Provide the Capital budget appropriated April 1, 2020 for each of the following projects for the 2020-21 fiscal year;
 - a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
2. Provide the Capital expenditures incurred during April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 for each of the following projects;
 - a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing
 - g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
 - h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
 - i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
 - j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
3. Provide the amount carry forward from March 31, 2021 to April 1, 2021 for each of the following projects;
 - a. NHC 01 - Fire Damage Replacement
 - b. NHC 02 - Homeownership programs – Nunavut
 - c. NHC 05 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – GN Funds (public housing)
 - d. NHC 06 - Staff Housing Units
 - e. NHC 09 - Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program
 - f. NHC 10 - Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing

- g. NHC 11 - Mobile Equipment
- h. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program
- i. NHC 13 - Public Housing Units
- j. NHC 14 - LHO Workshop, Warehouse & Administrative Offices
- 4. NHC 01 – Fire Damage Replacement – the budget for this line item has increased from \$2.5M (2017-18) to \$4.7M (2019-20) while actual expenditures ranged from \$0.5M (2017-18) to \$0.6M (2019-20). over the same time period the accumulated budget in this line item grew from \$10.5M (2017-18) to \$17M (2019-20).
 - a. Why are expenditures so low?
 - b. How will NHC utilize the \$17M budget to address the replacement of fire-damaged units?
- 5. NHC 02 – Homeownership programs – Nunavut – The budget for this line item remained stagnant at \$4M while over utilizing the budget and turning down applicants due to insufficient funds? Why has NHC not increase the budget for this item?
- 6. NHC 09 – Homeownership Programs – Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program - The budget for this line item has remained stagnant at \$0.5M (2017/18-2019/20) while lapsing roughly 50% which led to an accumulated budget of \$0.58M as of March 31, 2020. How will NHC utilize the funds to maximize return?
- 7. NHC 10 – Modernization and Improvement/Retrofit – Staff Housing – The budget for this line item has remained stagnant at \$0.5M (2017/18-2019/20) while incurring expenditures at approximately 50% which led to an accumulated budget of \$1.7M as of March 31, 2020. How will NHC utilize these funds in a timely manner for the improvement of staff housing units?
- 7. NHC 12 – Senior and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program - Staff Housing - The budget for this line item has remained stagnant at \$0.1M (2017/18-2019/20) while incurring expenditures at approximately 99% which led to an accumulated budget of \$0.22M as of March 31, 2020 (note the accumulated budget would be in excess of \$1M if it had not been reduced on April 1, 2018). Why has the budget remained stagnant, and how will NHC ensure the funds are expensed in a timely manner to provide assistance to seniors and persons with disabilities?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Lightstone's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. There is agreement. Written Questions. Mr. Main.

Written Question 095 – 5(2): Employment of Journeypersons and Apprentices

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My last written question for today is for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation. The subject is employment of journey persons and apprentices.

Mr. Speaker, I have provided a copy of this to the clerk. It is detailed, and I ask that it be entered into the record as read.

1. For the fiscal years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021:
 - a. Broken down by trade, how many journeypersons were employed by the corporation?
 - b. Broken down by trade, how many apprentices were employed by the corporation?
 - c. What was the vacancy rate for journeyperson and apprentice positions within the corporation during this period?
2. How did staffing issues (e.g. turnover and recruitment) for journeypersons impact the operations of the corporation during the above-noted fiscal years?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that Mr. Main's written questions be entered into the record as read?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. There is agreement. Written Questions. (interpretation) Moving on. (interpretation ends) Returns to Written Questions. 9. Replies to Opening Address. 10. Petitions. 11. (interpretation) Responses to Petitions. 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on the Review of Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation ends) Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Ms. Towtongie.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters**Committee Report 043 – 5(2): Recommendations for Amendments to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and Other Matters**

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elders have always recognized the month of June as *manniliurvik*.

In the month of June 2021, *manniliurvik*, I have the honour today of presenting the first report of the Fifth Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges. I would like to express my appreciation to my committee colleagues for the collegial manner in which we have worked together. (interpretation ends) For the benefit

of all Members of the House and the listening public, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight the standing committee's recommendations for amendments to the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*. The standing committee is making a total of five formal recommendations in this report.

Our first recommendation concerns the length of oral question period. As members are aware, a long-standing convention of the Legislative Assembly has been that all regular members should have the opportunity to pose at least one set of oral questions during a sitting day. (interpretation) Recognizing the frequency with which oral question periods have been extended during the life of the current Legislative Assembly, your committee is recommending that Rule 39(6) be amended to provide that the length of oral question period be changed from 60 to 75 minutes. (interpretation ends) This would make our legislature's question period one of the longest in the country, which is a clear reflection of our collective commitment to transparency and accountability in our non-partisan, consensus-based approach to government. (interpretation) The standing committee is further recommending that unanimous consent would be required to extend question period for an additional 30 minutes.

(interpretation ends) Our second recommendation concerns the Legislative Assembly's ongoing work to make our institution more family-friendly. At present, Rules 15 to 17, which define and provide for Strangers, do not clearly allow for members who are caring for newborns or nursing infants to bring their children on to the floor of the House. The standing committee is recommending that these provisions be amended to allow for this to take place.

(interpretation) Our third recommendation concerns the importance of providing the Speaker with the clear authority under Rule 12 (interpretation ends) to vary the application of any rule or practice of the Legislative Assembly in order to accommodate members with disabilities, members who are pregnant, or members requiring other supports to allow them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Our fourth recommendation is that Rule 97 be amended to fully reflect the range of appointments of officers of the House.

Our fifth and final recommendation is that the next reprint of the rules correct a number of typographical errors and terminological/practice inconsistencies.

Looking ahead, I anticipate that our experience with this sitting's hybrid proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and meetings of its committees and caucuses will require review and reflection, and I expect that all members will be invited to share their views and suggestions at the appropriate time.

Pursuant to Rule [91], I move that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House and its recommendations for amendments to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be deemed to have been accepted, effective the first day of the September 2021 pre-dissolution sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

As I stated, June, today, the month of eggs, *manniliurniq*, 2021, this is my report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House and its recommendations for the amendments to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be deemed to have been accepted, effective the first day of the September 2021 pre-dissolution sitting of the Legislative Assembly? Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is an agreement.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Continuing on. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 395 – 5(2): 2019 URRC Annual Report

Tabled Document 396 – 5(2): 2020 URRC Annual Report

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. I am pleased to table the 2019 and 2020 Utility Rates Review Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 397 – 5(2): Student Loan Funds Report Year Ending March 31, 2019

Tabled Document 398 – 5(2): Student Loan Funds Report Year Ending March 31, 2020

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to table two reports. These are on the Student Loan Funds Report; one is for year ending March 31, 2019 and the other for the year ending March 31, 2020. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 399 – 5(2): 2019 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report**Tabled Document 400 – 5(2): 2017-18 Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report****Tabled Document 401 – 5(2): 2018-19 Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report**

Hon. George Hickes: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. You might have not seen my hand the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the following reports:

- The 2019 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report; and
- The 2017-18 and 2018-19 Nunavut Victim Services Annual Report.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 402 – 5(2): Letter Regarding the Reopening of the Baker Lake Elders' Home

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been voicing here in this House, in person with the appropriate minister, and via email on my elders' needs and requirements. One of their biggest needs is to have the Martha Talirug Centre 24-hour palliative care reopened.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table a letter signed by 311 residents of the community of Baker Lake regarding the reopening of a 24-hour care home for the elders of our community.

As my colleagues will be aware, the Martha Talirug Elders Centre was closed down a couple of years ago and never reopened. This was a sad loss for our community, for our elders and their families.

This letter makes some very compelling arguments regarding the importance of elders being supported to remain in their familiar surroundings and culture.

I encourage all my colleagues to read this letter with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have two documents to table today.

Tabled Document 403 – 5(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements**Tabled Document 404 – 5(2): Members Dissolution Guidelines and Information on Indemnities, Allowances, and Services in the 2021 Election Year**

The first document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. The second document are the Members' Dissolution Guidelines and Information on Indemnities, Allowances, and Services in the 2021 Election Year.

Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Continuing on. 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. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2) 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 with the committee, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:27 and Committee resumed at 16:52*

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

Chairperson (Ms. Angnakak): Welcome back, everybody. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We wish to deal with Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2). Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Are we in agreement that we will deal with Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2): Rising Construction Costs' Impact on 2021-22 Projects – Consideration in Committee

Chairperson: I would now like to ask Minister Nakashuk: do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee? Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon. To my left is Eric Doiron, (interpretation ends) Director of Policy; far right, Ji Liu, Vice-president and Chief Financial Officer; and Terry Audla, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Those are the officials accompanying me here.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Chairperson and committee members. I am here to discuss the rising cost of construction and the status of our public housing and staff housing for the construction season 2021.

With bids so high over budget, the Nunavut Housing Corporation had to make difficult decisions. Let me be clear: the construction of 36 housing units were postponed and will not begin during this year's construction season. I would like to acknowledge that every housing unit we postpone represents a great burden for a family that might otherwise have a place to call home. It saddens me greatly to do this. However, cost overruns leave us with no other choice.

The cost of construction is skyrocketing across Canada. Nunavut is not immune to this. The bids we received this year were considerably over budget. Our budget for 2021-22 was set when the cost of building materials was lower, and our expectations were established accordingly.

We reviewed our construction projects to identify which ones could be postponed with the least impact on program requirements or the ability to quickly retrieve projects when market conditions stabilize.

- In Iqaluit, four public housing four-plexes were postponed.
- In Taloyoak, two public housing five-plexes were postponed because the contractor was unable to secure insurance.
- In Rankin Inlet, one public housing five-plex was postponed but will go ahead once the land is developed.
- In Pangnirtung, one staff housing five-plex was postponed and will be reviewed.

I want to stress that the public housing projects are not cancelled. They are postponed until next year.

Builds will still proceed in Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet, Naujaat, Kugaaruk, Sanirajak, Pond Inlet, and Sanikiluaq. In total 70 public housing units are being constructed along with four [staff] housing units.

The corporation did not want to make these decisions, but it has not been possible to proceed with the builds when the bids were 30 to 40 percent over budget. We will continue to work with our federal partners to ensure that Nunavut is included in national strategies to keep ahead of rising construction costs for public housing. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) I'll recognize the member who moved the motion. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister, for appearing before us today and your officials. It's great to see you all in here again.

This motion to put forward the minister's statement before the committee was a significant move. Of course it was the first motion of the Fifth Assembly to put an item before Committee of the Whole and the issue of rising construction costs for public housing has been an issue that has been ongoing and pre-dates this Fifth Assembly.

I would just like to note that at the beginning of the Fifth Assembly in fiscal year 2017-18, I believe that the average cost per public housing unit construction at that time was \$481,000. First I would like to ask the minister if she would be able to confirm the accuracy of that figure. Again, that's the average cost in 2017-18 being \$481,000....

Chairperson: Excuse me, Mr. Lightstone. We have an interpretation problem right now, so if you can hold off for a couple of minutes. Thank you.

We're getting both Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun on one channel.

(interpretation) Is it fixed now? Do you want him to go back to the beginning of his comments, Mr. Keyootak? (interpretation ends) Oh, okay. It's okay, Adam.

(interpretation) I think it's good now. (interpretation ends) Okay. Is it fixed now? There's a message up there. (interpretation) Is it okay now? Okay. Mr. Lightstone, you may begin.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. To pick up where I left off, the rising cost of construction of public housing has a significant impact on the territory and it's an issue that pre-dates this Assembly, but to focus on the average cost per construction unit, I had indicated at the beginning of the Assembly in fiscal year 2017-18, the average cost per unit was \$481,000.

Would the minister be able to confirm that amount as well as provide us with an estimate of the projected average cost for these 70 public housing units that will be commencing in this summer's construction season? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The average costs in 2018-19 were \$450,000 and up.

(interpretation ends) Oh, sorry. Yes, (interpretation) that is the amount, and for 2019-2020; \$604,000 is over that, and 2020-21; \$595,000 is over that, and 2021-22; \$817,000 that is above that. We have expected that over-cost and that has been the case and it is going to be to the end of 2022. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. So the estimated cost for these public housing units which will commence in this summer's construction season is projected to be at \$870,000.

For my next question, the minister had indicated that the minister was faced with a difficult decision as the cost of construction was skyrocketing. The minister reviewed construction projects to identify which ones could be postponed with the least impact on the program requirements.

For my next question, the minister had indicated that 20 public housing units in Iqaluit were selected to be postponed. Sorry, I stand corrected; 4 four-plex units, being 16 units in Iqaluit were postponed.

My next question I would like to ask is: what was the bid received for those 16 public housing units in Iqaluit? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. If it is okay with you, Mr. Audla would be more appropriately suited to answer that question.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For the Iqaluit units, the 16, the total over budget was close to \$15 million based on the lowest bid. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Audla. Those are pretty big numbers. Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Audla. So the 16 units in Iqaluit, the lowest bid received was almost \$15 million being approximately over \$900,000 a unit.

For my next question, I would like to ask: how many RFPs did the NHC put out for this construction season and how many of those request for proposals received single bidders? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: *Qujannamiik*. If you allow, I ask Mr. Liu to respond to that please.

Chairperson: Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We received a total of 26 bids on the tenders for 9 projects totalling 90 units. So for every tender we had multiple bidders. Thanks.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Liu for that information.

Moving onto my next question; we all know that the cost of constructing public housing units has been steadily increasing over the years, and I'm curious how much of that is due to materials? How much of that is that due to labour costs? How much of that is due to flights for transient construction workers as well as accommodations for the same group? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Could the member please repeat the details of that question? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone. Would you like to break down your questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll break it down into maybe three different questions. With the rising costs of public housing units from \$450,000 to \$870,000 throughout the life of this Assembly, a matter of a few short years, I am curious to know how closely the Nunavut Housing Corporation has monitored the situation and how much of that cost increase is attributed to construction materials? We'll start with that. Costs have almost doubled in recent years and how much of that is attributed to the cost of construction materials? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) The cost increase breakdowns in terms of materials has increased 20

percent increase based on the tender results in April, but with price increasing, the estimates by now the materials has increased about 50 percent from the previous year. For administration, whether it be accommodations, or shipping, it has increased to 40 percent.

As well, labour has increased to 87 percent from the previous year. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. That is a significant increase from one year to the next, and I'm curious if the minister would be able to provide similar information for the rate of growth over the last four years, where the cost of construction was \$450,000 and now it is \$870,000. Has the rate of materials when it cost \$450,000, how much has that increased to where it sits now at \$870,000? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) For the material itself, it has increased by 40 to 50 percent since the pandemic. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll move on to my next question and it's in relation to the soon-to-be completed Nunavut construction cost review and one aspect of that was to identify cost drivers, potential cost savings, address economic leakage for the construction of public housing units.

Since this project is near completion stage, can the minister indicate what items under cost drivers and potential savings have been identified and, had they been identified sooner, would they have been able to be utilized to reduce the current \$870,000 cost? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Regarding his question on the possibility of lowering the costs and of the options in the future, most costs have increased especially with the impacts imposed by COVID-19, and this has led to higher costs.

Additionally, when looking at communities that will be allocated units, when it was raised in this House, I stated that a review was undertaken of each community and whether the allocations were too low or if the construction would be delayed by a year, but we identified better options and this is how they identified the communities, although

it was also not adequate for communities that will not have construction this year. I hope I answered that question. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I'll move on to my next question and one issue that I have heard from the housing industry is that the RFPs for the construction of public housing units are overdesigned. The complexity of the architecture required for public housing units has been a major contributing factor to the steadily increasing cost of public housing construction. Would the minister be able to comment to that? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. An earlier question raised today, regarding the fire in Kugluktuk where the building was damaged but not completely gutted. These are the units that are inspected to see what needs to be done, whether to rehabilitate them or if a multiplex fire occurs, fire suppression or retardants that are less toxic.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation looks at the best materials prior to construction, and the designs that are built today are built using best practices on the safest ways and looking at the lower costs for construction.

Would you like to add to it? If it's okay with you, Mr. Audla can add to that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As the minister stated, when we do design or builds, we want to ensure that there are no downstream costs, so we want to build them right in the first place. We're responsible for the year-to-year operations and maintenance of these units. There's an old adage that "You get what you pay for."

When the member mentioned that there are those in the private industry and we hear it all the time is that we can build more for cheaper or we can build for cheaper, but our concern is to ensure that these builds are up to code or better and that there's mould mitigation based on our assessments, and that the downstream costs are minimized over the long term.

Yes, maybe we pay more up front, but as time goes by, maintenance costs are expected to diminish over that time period. So it is a quality of build that we look for as well. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Audla for those comments. I agree; you get what you pay for, but it is quite often that people pay more than what the quality deserves, and I agree that it is possible to build more for cheaper, and I also believe it is possible to build more quality for cheaper as well. I understand that code compliance is an issue with public housing design and I hope that is something that can be addressed.

I just wanted to follow-up with Mr. Audla's comments because he believed that the current designs are not overly complex and do not have any direct correlation with the rising costs of public housing construction over the last four years. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. The rising cost is not really because of that. Looking at it, it is not just in Nunavut, it has got more expensive in all of Canada; building houses that is. It was also said in Yellowknife that the federal government announced that Northwest Territories builds are in the same situation. Things have got a lot more expensive for construction, for lumber and construction material. They have stated that it was \$20 million more. It is going to be that much more expensive there.

Mr. Audla can add to my response. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The cost increases since 2017-18 were somewhat predictable and they were more or less stabilized over that time period until we reached now. As the minister said, this is a very hopefully temporary and unique jump in prices because of the COVID-19 pandemic and we are hoping that things will start to stabilize. As the minister had also said in her answer; this is Canada-wide, North America-wide if not worldwide issue with respect to this huge jump in the increase of cost of building.

So when it comes to the designs, I am very proud of the building that we do design based on the quality of what is required to ensure that when the local housing organizations take over the keys and provide them to tenants, that the tenants are put into units that are of a high enough quality that we maintain the quality of life as well for the tenants. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thanks again, Mr. Audla for that explanation. I understand that there has been a very significant increase from one year to the next, explicitly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the supply disruptions and so on and so forth, but I see the situation as a bit beyond the limitation of this pandemic.

Following up on the construction cost review, had the review found any potential cost savings utilizing alternative construction methods, such as modular or prefab, and had that recommended changing the current designs of the public housing construction? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) As mentioned before and I'll state it again, the Nunavut Housing Corporation does review recommendations, but it is also not a place where they do research facility. We have talked about what the best construction could be for Nunavummiut, modular being one of them.

Mr. Audla could correct me if I'm wrong, but years ago they had those prefab ones as well that ended up costing a lot more because it could have been cheaper to have them shipped up here, but from the port to the location, it's an additional cost for Nunavummiut. Mr. Audla could add more if he wanted to. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The minister is correct in... Well, our day-to-day operations, we try to look at ways of cutting our costs when it comes to the type of builds that we do and we always look at what is being provided to us and, in a lot of cases, unsolicited and we do receive multiples of those. It's difficult for us to share in some cases based on the fact that the company has confidentiality issues as well with respect to their ideas or their plans or what they feel would be a cheaper approach to building homes in Nunavut.

I'll add to the minister where, during the Nunavut Housing Trust days, there was a lessons learned document that was tabled in the House and a lot of that was related to the attempts at doing SIP types of builds and modular. There were cost overruns related to that based on the fact that you had large panels and/or modular units being delivered to the communities, to the beach, but there were no local resources capable to transport from the beach to the building site. If and when you got them to the building site, in some cases, some panels would be damaged, which would halt the construction of those homes, leaving no choice but to fly in these large panels at great expense. That was covered in the lessons learned document.

A few years ago we also looked at opening up the design aspect for modular purposes in a couple of communities and they came back no less cheaper, so we had to balance out which one provides the best benefits when it comes to local labour, as an example, where modular, there are no manufacturing plants here in Nunavut.

We don't sit idly. We try to look at every possible way of doing our builds cheaper without taking away the quality. As we all know, especially in these difficult times, when

it comes to the housing crunch, people will have great ideas, but when it comes to reality, they need to be proved up and researched. That's when we will look at it and say, "Okay, you have built it at your own dime" because we have to be responsible with the public funds that we do receive, and to ensure that they are built to the specs that we require as well as to the extreme climate that face us here in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you again, minister and Mr. Audla for those comments. I recall the Nunavut Housing Trust fiasco of 2010, and that was over a decade ago and I'm glad that there was a "lesson learned" document that was tabled and made public and unfortunately I didn't read that document.

But, I just wanted to state that the technology behind modular construction and specifically structurally insulated panels has advanced considerably, and there's a great example of utilization that technology just up the hill behind the Arctic College there, where they're building a large commercial residential facility there utilizing this structurally insulated panel technology and its going up at an incredible pace, and I have researched the technology. It's not just quicker to erect it's quicker to conduct the finishing touches such as electrical. It has much greater thermal rating, which reduces the operations costs going forward. Lastly it is constructed of steel and a type of spray foam insulation which is non-moulding, it is not prone to mould.

So, I just wanted to state that I think that it is a great piece of technology that would benefit many Nunavummiut if we only gave it a chance. I think it is unfortunate that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is unwilling to collaborate with external organizations to take on the risk or share the risk, and test out this technology for yourselves so that you can trust with 100 percent accuracy the findings of the results of that pilot.

I just wanted to state further that spending close to \$1 million a unit, whether it's an apartment or townhouse style unit is definitely not a responsible use of our limited funds. If there are avenues for cost-savings that produces higher quality units, then I strongly recommend that our government utilize that. No questions, just a comment. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Next person on my list is Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Good afternoon minister and to your staff. I'm glad that we could have this meeting today. Minister, I'm looking for clarification, with the rapidly rising costs of construction due to COVID-19, have you met with your federal counterpart about requesting more funds to help offset the costs from COVID-19? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have made more than one proposal to the federal government to date. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister for your response. Have you received any answers yet, or do you have an answer coming up any time soon as to whether we are getting any more funds or not to help offset the cost? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We are planning on meeting with them again, but I don't have a date at the moment as it hasn't been set yet. It will be announced, but the situation is in progress. We should be expecting to hear from them soon. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister for the response again.

My last question is: what is Nunavut Housing Corporation's contingency plan? What I am concerned about is other communities that were next in line to receive new housing construction, if they will be delayed for construction for a year or two, or even five years. That is my worry. So is there a contingency plan? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for your question. This is also an issue we have discussed because we are pretty much in an uncertain situation right now. It has been raised on more than one occasion, even from the federal government.

Looking at the plans and how we are able to better use our funds, perhaps Mr. Audla can clarify this issue on the funding. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. When it comes to our contingency plans, pre-COVID we normally tried to budget accordingly based on previous years' increases.

This one is hopefully an anomaly in that it settles down soon. If not, then obviously we may jeopardize the number of builds that we do within the communities for new public housing units. Obviously it would take more money, and we know and understand that

the resources within the Government of Nunavut are stretched. It's entering into partnerships with our federal counterparts and Inuit organizations to see what we can do to address that.

As it stands right now; it is our normal contingency planning and we are hoping that this settles when it comes to the pandemic-related increased costs. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Okay. I thought that was your last question, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought it was as well but Mr. Audla's response gave me another question to ask.

Speaker (interpretation): With respect to the Inuit organizations, have they made any commitment financial, or in-kind, to help with our housing situation across Nunavut? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, to date we have not received any communication.

The federal government has also received a letter but we have not received any feedback as yet. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you have any more questions, Mr. Simailak? Mr. Main, you are next.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I can wait. I will let Mr. Qirngnuq go ahead of me. I know he is very interested in this topic. Apologies, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: I am going by the list of people that put up their hand first, so it makes it kind of confusing. Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank Mr. Main for allow me to go first. I don't have many questions, Madam Chairperson.

My first question concerns the letter regarding insurance in Taloyoak stating the construction company couldn't go ahead with construction. Could I get a clarification or an explanation on this? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for your question.

The construction company in Taloyoak varied those that were selected to build, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as per the policy, has to look at what kind of insurance they have. While they were in the process of getting insurance, they ran into a hurdle with the insurance company because the materials increased in cost for the units that were going to be built in Taloyoak.

If you would like, I can have Mr. Audla explain further. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: I will probably repeat exactly what the minister's response was in English. The minister is correct that during the bidding process, when the lowest bid came in for the community of Taloyoak, and what we do is send a letter of intent, and within that letter of intent, to award that contract, we require proof of insurance or bonding.

The company that provided the letter of intent went to their insurance broker or their insurance company seeking that bond, and the insurance company came back to the contractor and informed them that their bid may have been too low, and we are not able to insure at the cost that you bid at.

So the company came to us at the Nunavut Housing Corporation and asked us if they could increase their bid, and that is not permitted. We have our regulations, we have our process. That is why the two five-plexes were postponed. They are not cancelled; they are postponed. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for that clarification. No doubt my constituents will now have more information as to what happened with the housing that was slated for construction for this summer, but will not go ahead.

I will go to the next question. Last year in Taloyoak there was a fire in a home and the building is empty. Have there been any renovations done to that house, or are there any plans to replace the building? For the 2020-21 construction season, will there be an increase in housing in Taloyoak from the numbers that are expected? I hope that was clear. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, we can. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you. Once a house with extensive fire damage is not suitable for renovations, then they are not added to the community lists as it is no longer habitable, however, there is fire insurance typically at \$5 million annually... Oh, this is for Mould and Remediation.

Yes, \$1 million is set aside annually for fire damages and reconstruction. There are usually annual plans for remediation identifying the communities; however, it is usually more than one building requiring work from the beginning to the end. This year, we have not identified any communities. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The third question I have concerns housing today, which is an issue, and building costs that increased significantly. Perhaps the department is making plans with respect to the increased costs.

I'll say this: you have a hotel that was erected in Iqaluit that was purchased from overseas. I know every community is having difficulty due to budget constraints. How then, can we seek more affordable housing construction? I'm curious as to what approach can be taken towards that? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson and thank you for the question. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has looked at many ways to reduce construction costs by way of tender because these constantly arise. We try to have equitable distribution of housing and we also look at other options from other countries, keeping costs in mind. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This will be my last question. I was writing a letter to the minister during our sitting. Before this Assembly is dissolved, I would like to ask if the minister would like to visit our communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak to discuss construction and what alternatives we may entertain to have cheaper housing construction. That is my last question, Madam Chairperson. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson and thank you for your question.

We don't want to be just negative to questions and Mr. Qirngnuq asked a similar question this past winter and I am very pleased that I am invited to visit your community and if possible, since we know this Assembly will be dissolved this coming fall, and sometimes it is not always appropriate to pay visits. For me it is a time factor, but we also have our staff who visit communities and if I am unable to visit, we have staff right now at this moment visiting communities in the Kivalliq, and they just recently visited Sanirajak and Igloolik. They had similar concerns on housing. We received those in our office and this will continue in our office. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I will try to keep my questions as quick as possible.

The minister's opening comments summarized the situation. So prices are skyrocketing, the cost of construction is skyrocketing, as a result there have been some delays in the units. So that is the housing corporation responding to the rising costs.

Aside from postponing the units in different communities, what is the housing corporation planning to do in terms of the factors that housing corporation does control; the design, the tendering process, the ingredients for housing, if you want to call it that, labour and land; what is the housing corporation planning to do other than the postponement of these contracts? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to the delays, we have identified the communities and we hear about the skyrocketing costs in Nunavut. However, there are 17 planned housing construction projects in Nunavut. The ones that were mentioned are (interpretation ends) one public housing five-plex (interpretation) in Coral Harbour; in Rankin Inlet there are (interpretation ends) three public housing five-plexes; Naujaat, three public housing five-plexes; Kugaaruk, two public housing five-plexes; Sanirajak, two public housing five-plexes; Pond Inlet, three public housing five-plexes; (interpretation) and a four-plex unit in Sanikiluaq as staff housing. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) My question is in response to the skyrocketing cost of construction, what is the housing corporation planning to do differently, other than postponing a number of units?

I realize that other units are still proceeding. What is the response from the housing corporation to the skyrocketing costs? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) If you will allow Mr. Audla to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is somewhat similar to a previous question from one of the members where “what are we doing right now?” I think it was from the Member for Baker Lake.

What are our plans? What is our contingency plan? What are we doing right now to try and look at driving down the costs outside of the uncontrollable when it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic?

We look at what are the impacts for construction pricing? Supply and demand, backlog, labour costs, commodity pricing, local market disruptions, and what are controllable and what can do to try mitigate or lower costs.

Over the past several years we have changed the designs to try and cut down on some of the costs; one example being one door for the 5-plexes, but the feedback we got was that the second door is required and is needed for safety concerns.

That would have been a saving of close to \$20,000 per door, multiplied by five; \$100,000 per unit. So we went back to the drawing board and switched it back to the original two-door design. Now, within each of our designs we need to look what we can do to change them up to ensure that there is still the quality of these builds and factoring in the downstream costs and the maintenance costs, over a period of time.

Then added to that, we are looking at partnerships and seeing what we can do to work with the federal government as to what we can do here in Nunavut to drive down these costs, but there are certain things that we can't necessarily change.

The facts of the matter; where Nunavut is not connected to any road system, the very short window of shipping materials, construction season, the small labour pool, so we are working through the Blue Print for Action in working with other department to see what we can do try and increase local labour content.

Those are some of the examples of what we are doing and I will leave it at that for now. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you Madam Chairperson. Thank you, minister and Mr. Audla. (interpretation ends) In terms of the design, that is one thing that is in the housing corporation's control, so in this short-term, within the next year, is the housing corporation going to be doing another design review with an eye to cut costs on your 5-plex or your other designs? Are you planning another review specifically in response to this price spike? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) If you will allow...sorry, Mr. Doiron to respond to that please. (interpretation) Thank you.

Mr. Doiron: Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: If we can get this light to go on when I want it to go on. If you can just go through myself as the chair. Mr. Doiron, when your red light goes on, then you can speak. Mr. Doiron.

Mr. Doiron: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can the MLA repeat the question?

Chairperson: Okay. Mr. Doiron, when you are finished you can just say “thank you, Chairperson” and then the guy that switches the mics in the back will know that you are finished. Okay, Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The question was: will the housing corporation be doing a review of their designs with an eye to finding cost savings in response to this price spike? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Doiron.

Mr. Doiron: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Last year, the Nunavut Housing Corporation ordered a housing review so it is about to be compiled, but during this COVID-19 the work for the review it was specifically indicated the Nunavut Housing Corporation was looking at the actual model of construction and the methodology and we are expecting to get an opinion from the consultant on that.

I believe that a good portion of that work will be dealing in comparing and making a very serious analysis of different construction techniques and there will some recommendations in regards to what the Nunavut Housing Corporation is doing actually and in potential new ways of constructing and saving costs. So the part about saving cost in construction will be covered in that review so as the minister mentioned earlier last week during the question period, this report is expected to be tabled by the fall.

So to answer your question I believe that many of what the Members of the Legislative Assembly questions are dealing with today is about the ways that in the Nunavut Housing Corporation is building and if there is a better way to build and if there is a better way to build cheaper, or and it think what was initially the intent here was to verify, as a matter of fact, if we are doing it in the right way or the right choice, I believe the report that will tabled in September will probably bring more answers to the Members of the Legislative Assembly in regards to that. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that response and I look forward to seeing that report.

Another thing that the Housing Corporation controls is the tendering process and so the current preferred method of tendering say for a five-plex is supply, ship and erect and that is the preferred method, or I guess the method that is currently used.

In response to this price spike, is the housing corporation looking at trying anything different, specifically I am thinking of maybe tendering your materials and your labour separately? Could mean labour-only contracts, and or is there anything differently that is going to be done differently regarding these tenders? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to refer this to Mr. Audla if it is okay with you. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is not necessarily a preferred method, but it is what we have to abide by. We have the *NNI Act* as well as the procurement requirements, which is more of a Government of Nunavut as a whole.

There are discussions in looking at through Article 24 the requirements of say a 20-year review and so on. I would like to add to the response in the sense that I had answered another member about the lessons learned document from the Nunavut Housing Trust days, and there were attempts to change up the tendering process separating out labour, separating out materials and there were a lot of issues related to that as well.

So within that Lessons Learned document, although everyone's hearts were in the right place, the reality sort of suggested otherwise when it came to potential cost-savings which ended up costing the government a lot more money. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Audla. (interpretation ends) I have read that report and I actually waved it in the House and so I can't say that I can recite it word for word but that's a report that I have read. So my question was regarding the tendering process and whether in response to this new challenge this COVID-19 related price spike whether the housing corporation is planning to do anything differently in terms of the tendering process to change it up so to speak in response to this challenge? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) If you'll allow Mr. Audla to respond to that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Considering that this is an anomaly and considering that it's hopefully time-limited and that things will settle down. We're not in the current process of looking at our tendering process. That would take a lot more research and allowances and effort on our part which would also add to costs in the administrative sense of things. It's hopefully a one-time event this COVID-19 pandemic. We still have high hopes that it will settle down. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I hope so too for the purposes of contracting in the government. So on the one hand the Nunavut Housing Corporation is facing these skyrocketing costs and on the other hand we look at award information for public housing builds that are going ahead for example Naujaat, Pond Inlet, Sanirajak these are tenders and the successful vendor in all these three examples is Pilitak Enterprises. So my understanding is that this is a shell company for Kudlik Construction.

Mr. Audla mentioned the NNI Act and I realize that's what binds you. Is the use of shell companies if you call them worse things, I call them paper companies. Is that something that is also driving up costs in terms of the housing corporation's builds? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It will have to be looked at further. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify if this is something that's included, the use of shell or paper companies. Is that's something that's included in the construction costs review that's currently ongoing? Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Would the minister be able to commit to having her staff look at that issue in light of this price spike and I guess do an internal analysis on whether this is a contributing factor? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. No, not at this point. The price rises is everywhere, not just in Nunavut. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I wonder why the minister is reluctant to commit to this? I would hope that the housing corporation would be looking everywhere for where costs can be cut so that housing builds can be continue to be delivered so that we do not have postponements in future years.

So I guess my next question is why is the minister not willing to commit to something like this? I had hoped that the housing corporation would be looking everywhere for ways to save money and see projects go ahead. (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. We have no control over that. The things that are put together by the contractors. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) I guess it would be a request or maybe something that can be tackled together between the housing corporation and Economic Development and Transportation with the NNI Secretariat.

So I guess I will just say that I am disappointed that the housing corporation is not willing to look at this in light of this cost spike.

My last question, Madam Chairperson, are on the labour. We all know that we are very reliant on outside labour for construction in Nunavut. Would it be fair to say that the reliance on outside imported labour has made the Nunavut Housing Corporation more sensitive to price increases driven by the market? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Regards to the first question, Mr. Audla can respond to that and the other question, Mr. Doiron can answer that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) There is not, the reluctance is more the mechanics involved with respects to a review such as that when it comes to the contracting and the tendering process and we as government don't determine who our Inuit firms, that is left under the land claims with the signatory to the land claim, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

We are bound to the *NNI Act*. So I mentioned earlier we are in the process of working with economic development tourism on that whole Article 24 20-year review and see where we can make improvements if we can, but it is doing to take some time.

With respect to the labour cost and sort of the overreliance on outside of Nunavut labour, based on the fact that the current labour pool we have in Nunavut right now is very limited. It is one of the factors of what impacts construction pricing. When the economy is good, or when the bank rates are very low and when there are federal initiatives to increase construction across Canada, the labour pool becomes very shallow and the costs go up based on the availability of labourers who have the Red Seal, the certifications, the electricians, the plumbers, the oil burner mechanics so those are all factors that we have to bear the brunt of when it comes to rising costs.

So in the current economy right now there are a lot of initiatives nationwide which are driving that cost. In an ideal situation if we can find bring about an increased labour pool within Nunavut that would be the right direction to go but that's a long-term initiative as mentioned in our Blueprint for Action. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Audla. (interpretation ends) In terms of that local labour pool and developing it is there anything new that's being proposed or being planned in response to this situation. Is there anything different from previous construction seasons that we will see across Nunavut this year? (interpretation) Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It will not be changed in the next year. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. (interpretation ends) Why? Why is that? We have a challenge in front of us or the housing corporation does. Some of it is related to reliance on outside labour. Why don't we see any initiatives planned in the housing corporation's side to increase the local labour pool? That's my last question.

Chairperson: Minister Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you for asking that question. The groups that we work with or the departments we work with like the Department of Family Services. There's nothing set up like that right now. As to what kind of labour is available in Nunavut and I think Mr. Audla can add to this response. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Audla.

Mr. Audla: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. As I mentioned in the previous answer this is sort of mid to long term initiative and it's identified to our Blueprint for Action. We can't have Red Seal journeymen overnight and that's going to take some times to accomplish.

So through the blueprint for action we are working towards that goal. In recent initiatives we have partnered up with the Nunavut Arctic College for a refurbishment and do our major renovations to units through the trade school in Rankin Inlet, as an example. When it comes to immediately addressing what we feel is a COVID-19 anomaly with respect to the spiked costs. There is no short-term solution when it comes to the labour pool. We have to go forward steady but slow at the same time to do it right and it relies on our partnerships with the various departments as the minister had mentioned in her answer. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I don't have any more names on my list. Before I go, is it for question? Okay, I'll just ask the minister if she has any closing comments.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I also thank the members for their questions. The subject under discussion was not full of good news items, but it is only by discussing these difficulties that we can identify the tough situation we found ourselves in.

I thank my officials and staff, including employees who provided the information but who were not present here dealing with the housing situation. We want all communities to benefit and particularly since our housing crisis will not disappear anytime soon.

It would be good if we can get 3,500 houses and we would stop talking about it, but right now many factors, including additional funding is part of the problem, which is unfortunate. I know that the housing corporation will try to continue to do well on this subject. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you as well. (interpretation ends) I guess I should have asked: do members agree that we have concluded the review of Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you, minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I move a motion to report progress. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Chairperson: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Good evening. Is there a report from 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 Minister's Statement 640 – 5(2) and would like to report that it has been concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder?

>>*Laughter*

All right, Ms. Nakashuk.

>>*Laughter*

The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills.

(interpretation) Before we adjourn, I wish to make a statement. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Before we finish our sitting today, *uqaarjugumavunga*, I would like to make a statement.

Speaker's Statement

(interpretation) First of all, I wish to express my appreciation to the (interpretation ends) Deputy Speaker. (interpretation) He's not here anymore as he had to leave early. I would like to thank him for being able to act as the Speaker this week. I also know he is the longest-serving member here as MLA in the House.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) I would also like to thank our page, Alexis Vincent-Wolf...

>> *Applause*

...having fulfilled her responsibilities without assistance during our spring sitting.

>> *Applause*

I am confident that all members will agree that the hybrid format of our sitting has been unprecedented and challenging, and I wish to acknowledge the efforts of our technical staff and interpreters over the past few weeks. (interpretation) Please give them a hand.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) It has not been easy, but they managed to pull it off, despite many technical challenges facing us here in the north.

As members are aware, public health and travel restrictions in the capital have recently been eased, and I again pay tribute to all our frontline health workers during the pandemic.

>> *Applause*

One of the positive consequences of easing the public health and travel restrictions is that the upcoming hearings of our standing committee later this month will be able to be held in person here in the Chamber.

>> *Applause*

I am confident that members are looking forward to once again being able to work together in person, and I remain hopeful that our Visitors' Gallery will once again be open to Nunavummiut in the not-too-distant future.

(interpretation) They will take over your spots. I'm just kidding.

>> *Laughter*

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) I also wish to express my personal appreciation to the residents of Igloolik for their strength during this time. (interpretation) The community of Igloolik has lost a lot of individuals up to the spring. (interpretation ends) It has not been easy, but we are persevering.

(interpretation) I would like to thank all members for their attention and we will continue with the orders of the day.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for September 9:

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

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Thursday, September 9, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:23*

