

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Justice;
Minister responsible for Labour*

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Government House Leader; Minister
of Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy;
Minister responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation*

Hon. Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
*Minister of Health; Minister
responsible for Suicide Prevention*

Solomon Malliki

(Aivilik)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Joanna Quassa
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Minister of Languages; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
Corporation; Minister responsible for
Seniors*

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 11, 2022

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Hon. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 8:59*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Ms. Killiktee, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. We are now on the fifth day of session and I am thankful that we are able to be here.

(interpretation ends) It's very important to recognize little children. It's always so important to raise them properly. I understand this morning that one child wanted to be a Speaker, so that's nice.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 028 – 6(1): Support for Nunavut Artists Via the CTCI Program

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and the struggle with my mask continues. Good Friday morning, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has continued to invest in programs to support Nunavut artists throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nunavut artists have strived to adapt during the pandemic and our existing program offerings have also adjusted to meet the needs of our artist. Today I would like to highlight our Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Program.

First, to support a larger number of smaller at-home projects, we have removed the funding cap on the total allowable materials and supplies.

Second, also to support smaller projects, we have moved from fixed application deadlines to receiving applications year-round on a rolling basis.

Mr. Speaker, to date my department has invested over \$700,000 of program dollars to provide artists with access to equipment and supplies that have allowed them to produce and sell more of their goods and services.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank all artists in our territory for bringing entertainment, inspiration, hope, and joy amongst Nunavummiut, in a time when we particularly need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister for Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 029 – 6(1): Targeted Labour Market Program

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the successful continued delivery of the Literacy and Essential Skills for the Trades Program in partnership with Frontier College. Family Services provided \$700,000 to fund this important program through the Targeted Labour Market Program.

This program provides sector-specific training for Nunavummiut seeking careers in the skilled trades. It allows Frontier College to provide support to help learners with reading comprehension, math, science, literacy, and essential skills. It assists learners to prepare for the trades entrance exam, pre-apprenticeship and apprentice programs, high school equivalencies, certificates of qualification, and Red Seal certification. It also promotes retention and success in a trades-related technical education and employment pathway.

The program began in August 2021 and is currently delivered in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Kinngait, Gjoa Haven, Clyde River, and Sanirajak. Thirty-one individuals have been supported, with six having passed the trades entrance exam. It is expected that 150 participants will have accessed this training opportunity by the end of the current year.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the demand for skilled and specialized trades workers is increasing in Nunavut. My department is playing a key role in ensuring Nunavummiut are ready to meet current labour market demands. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister for Health, Mr. Main.

Minister's Statement 030 – 6(1): Direct Appointments and Inuit Staffing

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, people of Arviat and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health is committed to Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and knows it is essential to provide Nunavut Inuit employment opportunities in health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my department is working hard to fulfil its obligations to grow the number of Inuit employees on staff. One of the ways we achieve this is through direct appointments, which gives Nunavut Inuit who are already fulfilling the needs of the department through their work, the benefit of an indeterminate position.

Uqaqtitsijii, I am pleased to report that in the past year, 22 Nunavut Inuit were direct appointed to health positions and there are 15 others that are currently under review. These positions include administrative and support staff, nurses, and program coordinators.

Uqaqtitsijii, currently we have 576 Inuit employed with the Department of Health, representing 44 percent of our workforce.

Uqaqtitsijii, one of the priorities of this government and my department is to increase Inuit participation in government employment in the Nunavut Settlement Area to a representative level. To achieve this important goal, we will continue to look for direct appointment opportunities and prioritize hiring Nunavut Inuit whenever possible.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister for Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 031 – 6(1): Mental Health Support for Jurors

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jury duty is one of the most direct ways our citizens take part in Nunavut's justice system. Jurors serve our communities and play a vital role in the judicial process in Nunavut.

Serving on a jury can be very demanding. Jurors can be exposed to traumatic cases and Nunavummiut who serve as jurors deserve our full support to manage the stress that can come with the role.

Therefore I am happy to announce that the Department of Justice has entered into a contract with a northern-based counselling service provider to offer Nunavut jurors free

on-call mental health support for up to one year after they have served on a jury.

I want to thank our Court Services Division who have worked hard to get this program up and running and who are working to ensure Nunavummiut who serve on a jury have support after they have completed their service.

I also want to thank all the many Nunavummiut who give their time and energy to serve their community by sitting on a jury. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. The Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 032 – 6(1): Call-out to Alumni

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Ublaatsiaq*, Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, and Nunavummiut. Last month Nunavut Arctic College sent out a call inviting former students and graduates to join our college alumni network. The vision of this network is straightforward: bring together individuals who have shown their commitment to learning and provide our alumni with supports and opportunities for continued growth and success.

Mr. Speaker, the potential for this network is great. Examples of activities include alumni gatherings, engagement to inform program growth and development, sharing of employment opportunities, and opportunity to participate in the college's promotional campaigns.

Whether you were a student at the college last year, five years ago, or 25 years ago, Nunavut Arctic College wants to hear from you. Individuals are asked to send an email to NAC.Alumni@arcticcollege.ca. Individuals who connect by March 15 will be entered into a draw for prizes. Updates on this work can be found on the college's website and Facebook page.

Mr. Speaker, the college looks forward to engaging with this special network. I encourage all former students and graduates to reach out and help build this alumni community. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 060 – 6(1): Happy Retirement, Nick Kingunkotok

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, all, especially to Lily and Maggie. I'm not sure if you guys are watching, but I hope you guys slept well last night.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two youth from my community.

Nick, who works as a housing maintainer, started working in 1976, before I was born. Since Nick started working, he went out to take oil burner mechanic training and obtained his journeyman certificate. In 1994 he became the foreman of the workers for local housing organizations. He is still working to date.

I'll speak English.

(interpretation ends) Over the years, he has also trained young people, taking them on as apprentices to learn on the job until they became journeymen themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Nick is now on leave and will be officially retiring on April 1, 2022. Whoever will become the new lead hand or foreman will have big shoes to fill.

I truly appreciate Nick's years of dedication and service to maintain the housing units in Baker Lake. Thank you, Nick. Enjoy your retirement, and I ask my colleagues to help me thank and congratulate Nick Kingunkotok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 061 – 6(1): Stayed Home due to Cold, Not COVID-19

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, members. I rise this morning to say that I couldn't attend yesterday due to flu and we are told to stay indoors if we're coughing, and I had to self-monitor and I am pleased to say that I don't have COVID, but I apologize to my constituents in Amittuq for not being able to attend for two days.

I believe we're in flu season now and the health department has a kit that you can use to test yourself. Being able to test has a lot of benefits, but you have some drawbacks, having to wait 15 minutes for the results. However, I am pleased to say that I didn't have COVID this morning and that I will be able to attend the rest of the sitting. Thank you for allowing me this time, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 062 – 6(1): Appreciation of Mina Maktar

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good morning” to the people of Pond Inlet and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the local hunters in Pond Inlet for distributing their catch to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it's a lot of fun, as we all know, when we go fishing. This morning I would like to recognize one of the local fishermen who have been fishing all winter, in the dead of winter, and they went fishing to Iqalugaarjuk. Mina, I am awestruck by her skills. She is always going with a hunting party all year round. I would like to include her in my gratitude. She and her husband also give to the community and I want to recognize them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member's Statement 063 – 6(1): Appreciation of Mary Ittunga

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge an elder, Mary Ittunga, who helped me to advise the community of Taloyoak through our local radio to take precautionary measures in regard to COVID-19, which she went on local radio and asked community members to follow CPHO orders for the safety of residents. Thank you, Arnangujaq.

Actually, Mary was my Inuktitut teacher when I was in kindergarten and grade 1. I thank her up to this day and it's because of her that I know my syllabics today.

I advise all Nunavummiut to please listen to your elders and teachers because they are the ones who pass on the knowledge of our cultural ways and understanding of who we are.

Mr. Speaker, having local radio in communities is a great way to get the message out to the community and residents, and my hope is that the GN continues to support them with initiatives and funding when available so they operate most of day and night.

(interpretation) I thank you, Arnangujaq. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 064 – 6(1): 2022 Nunavut Quest

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past year I am pleased to mention the Pangaggujjiniq dog sled race. Pangaggujjiniq is called Nunavut Quest in English. They will start in Arctic Bay on April 18 to Igloolik up to April 19. If you want to participate in the dog sled race, you can request from the local committee who are fundraising at the moment.

We are very proud that this initiative is to take back the use of dog teams and they are taking back our cultural practices. As such, I am hopeful that I will be in Arctic Bay on the commencement of the dog sled race and hopefully I'll participate in local activities, but I won't want to participate in dog team racing. I might step into something unpleasant or slip. I'm very pleased that the local organizers do a lot of work and they also have a website called Nunavut Quest.

I would like to thank the dog team committee: in Arctic Bay, Moses Oyukuluk, Zipporah Oyukuluk, Rhoda Natanine, Beneta Ejangiaq, Crystal Natanine; in Igloolik, Silas Attagutisak, Leah Attagutsiak, Tania Haulli, Louisa Kipsigak, Susan Qaunaq, Donald Ittusardjuat; and in Pond Inlet, Lee Inuarak, Lilu Inuarak, and Charlie Inuarak.

To be noted, any changes due to COVID-19 will be made as necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Member's Statement 065 – 6(1): Tribute to Herve Paniaq

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to acknowledge my fellow residents of Igloolik, in particular those with children and relatives of Mr. Herve Paniaq who was the most elderly person and just recently passed away. Today he will be laid to rest along with his daughter.

Paniaq always practised Inuit cultural practices and was very knowledgeable. Many people have learned from him. In the last bowhead hunt in Igloolik, he was the elder of the hunt.

Along with my fellow Igloolik residents, we have lost a very important figure. I keep in mind Paniaq's family and extend my condolences to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Member's Statement 066 – 6(1): Appreciation of George Putulik

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to make some comments to pass on my gratitude to the search party back in December in Naujaat that was searching for an individual who was very supportive to our community. He was a leader in our community and always distributed his harvest to the community.

(interpretation ends) George Putulik had a passion for hunting. He was beneficial to our community by providing country food to our community voluntarily, especially for those who could not afford it. We just lost him for not only that, but also for his kindness and volunteer traits. He shared and contributed to everyone whom he knew. Losing a hunter of such a significant impact on us deserves acknowledgement for contributing. He not only provided for his family, but the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking of this, I would also like to thank the search effort from within and outside of the community that was beyond expectations, which started as local, including volunteer community members to their local search and rescue and hamlet.

Losing a family and community member is immeasurable and hard to endure. Please take the time to remember his immediate family during this difficult time as they take time to heal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We send our condolences to the family. (interpretation ends) I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. As we are closed to the public, there is no recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 049 – 6(1): Chesterfield Inlet Granular Supplies**

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning to the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, as well as my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the important issue of granular supplies in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, information published by his department concerning Chesterfield Inlet's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan indicates that "...the community has limited access to material...currently, there is less than two years of gravel remaining."

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recognize, access to sufficient supplies of quality gravel is essential for the development of other community infrastructure, including the planned new airport terminal building, road repairs, and land lot development.

Can the minister clarify what specific supports are available from his department to assist the municipality in expanding its access to gravel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, in Chesterfield Inlet's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, the municipality has identified the development of a new quarry as their 24th priority.

In response to this issue, my department has reached out to all municipalities to understand their granular needs. With that, this includes a look at their existing stockpiles, equipment, and estimated life of granular sources. This is an ongoing area of interest that we try to support municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet has been raising this concern directly with the minister's department, but may not have received a formal reply. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the municipality receives a timely reply to its concerns, and that my office be provided with a copy of the department's response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not entirely sure what correspondence that my colleague refers to, but if he can present it to me, I would be more than happy to review it and provide a response at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chesterfield Inlet may not be the only community in the Kivalliq that is experiencing challenges in accessing significant supplies of granular materials. Can the minister update the House on what work his department is undertaking to develop a granular strategy for the region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, my department does its best to support all communities with their different needs, whether it's granular, whether it's land development, and other areas where growth is needed. We need to look at and make sure our plans are well in place and that we have the finances and human resource capacity in place to support those communities in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I am willing to look at this further along with my colleagues and I look forward to that correspondence that the member spoke of earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Question 050 – 6(1): Departmental Positions

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is in regard to...maybe I will say it in English. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Environment and they concern the subject of his department's positions in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

On September 10, 2019, (interpretation) what we have seen is (interpretation ends) federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park near the community of Clyde River. The community is looking forward to progress being made on the new park.

Uqaqtii, can the minister clarify how many new positions his department will be creating in Clyde River as a result of the establishment of the new park? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect this park to be completed because it is being worked on and we will talk about it once we get to the capital request about it. It is not written down as to how many positions will be created. I will have to look into the matter some more and report it to my colleague here, but I expect that once we get into the capital matters, I will be asking for approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's most current statistics indicate that, reading it from the updated version dated September 30, 2021, it stated that there will be two positions being created in my constituency community of Clyde River. One position has already been filled, but the other one has not been filled, and Qikiqtarjuaq is in the same situation.

Mr. Speaker, the government's most current statistics indicate that the Department of Environment has two positions in Clyde River, one of which is vacant, as I indicated. Can the minister provide an update on the status of his department's work to fill this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lord help me with my mask; it is hard to take off.

>>*Laughter*

Yes, those are new statistics and they are working on it on a casual basis as the park is being planned or worked on. I can look into this matter as well. The lands people are already there; it may have to do with them. I will have to review the documents properly to see which people are actually in Clyde River. It's very good to see that we were able to look for staff for the position now. I would like to thank my colleague for asking those questions about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for somewhat explaining the fact that it will be worked on. We will expect it.

Now, in the government's most current statistics that I quoted, I would like to get back into the statistics which indicate that the Department of Environment has one position in Qikiqtarjuaq which is vacant.

When this issue was last raised in the previous Assembly by my predecessor, the minister of the day indicated that there was no housing available. That was the response given at the time.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update on the status of his department's work to fill this position? The community never seems to be able to keep a renewable resource or conservation officer. I'm just explaining the position a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking those good questions about the positions that need filling. The situation has been like that for a long time now and they are still waiting for staff housing and the situation is still the same. They get fly-in conservation officers and that's how communities are dealt with when they don't have a conservation officer. Some of the officials go into the communities and do the work that needs to be done. We do want to hire people, but sometimes it takes a very long time to fill the positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Question 051 – 6(1): Search and Rescue

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues and ministers, as well as the residents of my community and my constituents in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of search and rescue.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to the search and rescue volunteers in Naujaat and Coral Harbour. They put themselves at risk to save others.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, his department is responsible for administering the government's Community-Based Search and Rescue Contributions Policy. The current policy expires on April 1 of this year.

Can the minister describe what specific changes or improvements to the policy are being considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Member for Aivilik for the question and also for mentioning his community members. I would like to thank all the search and rescue volunteers who work to save people.

The Department of Community and Government Services has a program where we help search and rescues. The policy is being reviewed to see how effective it has been and to see how it can be improved. I can't get into the details right now, but we are looking to see how we can improve the way it is run. We would like to involve all the communities in reviewing the policy so that it can be improved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) As the minister may recall, there was a tragic incident in Naujaat, in my constituency last December involving a search and rescue. The community has been in mourning.

As the minister is aware, the Canadian Armed Forces have responsibility for air searches in the Arctic, and we are grateful for their support. However, the military's search and rescue aircraft are based in Ontario and Nova Scotia. I believe that it would be beneficial if search and rescue aircraft could be permanently based at a central location in Nunavut, which could help to improve response times.

Can the minister describe what discussions he has held with the federal government on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're dealing with search and rescue, we get help from the federal government in a number of ways. We haven't really had discussions with the federal minister. However, I can say that next week on March 17, our ministerial colleagues in Canada who are responsible for search and rescue will be talking about this together and afterwards I should be able to give an update to my colleagues and talk about what happened at the meeting which is happening next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for dealing with it. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Canada and seven other Arctic Council member states signed an arctic search and rescue agreement in May 2011. In light of the current situation in Europe and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, can the minister clarify if any changes to this agreement are being looked at? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The actions taken by these Arctic nations in light of the invasion of Ukraine and how it may affect the work of the Arctic Council, and the Premier is attempting to discuss more sanctions with his counterparts or (interpretation ends) premiers, (interpretation) and I can bring it up to discuss certain impacts and possible actions on his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 052 – 6(1): Changes Needed in Staff Housing Policy

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say “good morning” to you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my line of questioning to the Minister of Human Resources on staff housing.

Minister, before I ask my first question, I'll just quote MLA Lightstone from the *Hansard* from previous time. Unfortunately “the staff housing subsidy is highly concentrated among the professional, middle management, all the way up to executive-level positions. In fact two-thirds of the highest paid positions are in staff housing, and not to mention the fact that only 25 percent of staff housing is allocated to Inuit employees.”

Mr. Speaker, honourable people's convictions rarely change, so we know where MLA Lightstone's position was. I ask the minister: now that the minister is in charge of staff housing, are there going to be any changes to who can go in staff housing, for example, no executive-level positions, no non-Inuit, maybe time limits? Can the minister elaborate on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question and quoting information from the *Hansard*. That statistical data cannot be refuted, Mr. Speaker. It has been shown that those figures are correct.

Mr. Speaker, as the member had indicated that I am now in charge of the Staff Housing Policy and had asked if we can expect to see changes such as no executive employees or no non-Inuit employees or timelines, as I have previously indicated, I cannot provide a response to the question as I do not know the answer, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister does not know the answer. Mr. Speaker, the minister is in charge of human resources staff housing policy. If the minister cannot give me an answer, who can? Who is running human resources?

Mr. Speaker, I just want to quote again from the *Hansard*. "The current system is very..." This is regarding staff housing. "...the current system...is very unfair and I believe something needs to be done. I know that every time I ask questions on the topic, almost always the minister's response was that there was a review. There's going to be potentially something, but we don't know what and we don't know when." I think I heard those words a few days ago from the current minister.

I'll ask the minister again: who is in charge of the Staff Housing Policy and why won't the minister answer questions that I'm posing to him on statements that the member has said? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I truly appreciate the line of questioning. These are concerns that I have raised and concerns that I still have, Mr. Speaker. However, I cannot provide responses to the questions at this time, as I previously indicated.

Mr. Speaker, although I am responsible for the Staff Housing Policy itself, I will not make arbitrary decisions. I have committed to initiate a review and a review that is evidence-based and will lead to informed decisions. Mr. Speaker, the review is in the preliminary stages. Mr. Speaker, we need to take some time to look at the matter

carefully and put together objectives and scope before we can provide any such timelines or determinations.

Mr. Speaker, with all of that being said, I cannot provide responses to the questions at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that the minister is initiating a review, but I'll just quote MLA Lightstone again. "...almost always the minister's response was that there was a review. There's going to be potentially something, but we don't know what and we don't know when." As the minister now, he is saying that, so the minister should know my concerns, but I'll go on to my next line.

I will quote MLA Lightstone from the *Hansard* again. This is the quote from the *Hansard*, "Mr. Speaker, public housing and staff housing tenants have no incentive to transition into homeowners because there is no incentive."

Mr. Speaker, will the minister be coming out with an incentive to encourage staff housing tenants to move out of staff housing and get their own housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Direct to the member's question, if I would like to come out with some form of incentive to assist and encourage tenants in staff housing as well as public housing to become homeowners or become more independent, of course, yes, I would like to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 053 – 6(1): Suicide Prevention Initiatives

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be to the Minister of Suicide Prevention.

Mr. Speaker, the topic of suicide is very tough and I feel that it has to be talked about from time to time.

Can the Minister of Suicide Prevention make programs available for youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Suicide being a very heavy subject, I agree with my colleague. We have to talk about it even though it is hard.

With regard to his question on whether we can have programs for youth for assistance, looking at our staff within Nunavut, there are some positions in his constituency, or in English, (interpretation ends) professional and paraprofessionals, (interpretation) and positions are in those categories. Most of the positions aimed specifically for youth will be brought forward, such as (interpretation ends) youth outreach workers, (interpretation) and they would be part of the mental health division.

Mr. Speaker, lastly we provide funding every year to the communities to different organizations under what is called Upigivagitsi. There are different programs for youth that are delivered within our communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Suicide Prevention have training programs or courses available on this topic for adults too as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. I am unsure if he is asking specifically about adult specific programs, or positions related to the mental health, and whether these people would personally take the training, so I am unsure exactly how to respond so perhaps the member can clarify it for me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. If you can clarify your question, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the pandemic first started and the lockdowns and the restrictions were in place, it made it very difficult for our youth and not just our youth; adults too as well. The closures of the schools made it very difficult for a lot of youth and the adults too as well and the parents. Can the minister take note and inform the education minister and the CPHO office that our government, I feel, that needs to come up with a greater approach? During the pandemic and the closures, it made it very difficult and it became a family issue. Can the Minister of Suicide Prevention make programs and training courses available for each and every Nunavummiuq on this topic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the clarification. This COVID-19 really impacted some communities hard, and mental health suffered as a result as it too was part of the impacts.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of mental health and addictions, the specialized out-of-territory services are currently not impacted by COVID-19. However, there have been some impacts in terms of in-person services here in the territory.

However, mental health and addictions staff are available to see clients in person, who are in crisis, and phone supports are also available. Medication pickup and administration remain unaffected.

Mr. Speaker, on a final note, we're moving towards offering more virtual counselling services and right now the "Healing by Talking" program, a virtual counselling service, is available to all Nunavummiut. I would encourage anybody who has an interest to contact their local health centre or mental health worker for more information on "Healing by Talking." (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I will not give up on this topic, as I care for each and every one of you, all the youth of Nunavut, so please seek help if you need help. I thank the minister for his answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: It's just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 054 – 6(1): Out-of-territory Supports for Medical Travel Clients

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately Nunavut residents with certain medical conditions are required to travel out of the territory to receive their medical care. In some cases, medical clients and their escorts are in the south for extended periods of time. This can become quite a boring and depressing experience.

I'll switch to English. (interpretation ends) Can the minister describe what kinds of supports, activities, or services are provided to medical clients who have to be away from home for extended periods of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) when medical travellers have to be outside of the territory for extended periods of time, the benefits and the services available are covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. That program extends up to 90 days at a maximum and that's where, under the NIHB program, things like accommodation and meals are covered.

In terms of travellers from the Kivalliq region, they're normally supported by Kivalliq Inuit Services, which operates out of the Kivalliq Inuit Centre. Of course I don't need to

tell that to the member; he knows that well enough, but that's normally where the services are coordinated out of is the Kivalliq Inuit Services office in Winnipeg. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Mr. Speaker, it can be very difficult for medical clients and their escorts to be alone for long periods of time. They only receive enough funding for their lodging, as the minister just announced. Mr. Speaker, charities like Ronald MacDonald House provide help, healing programs, and support for families in need while their family member is receiving medical care far away from home.

Can the minister tell us whether he or his officials have established any partnerships with such entities as Ronald MacDonald House to provide additional support and programming to Nunavummiut who are spending long periods of time alone in the south? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently there are no partnerships of that nature that I'm aware of pertaining to the Kivalliq region specifically. However, I can look into this and ask for more information about it from my department in terms of whether there are any partnerships or any avenues that we can explore.

Mr. Speaker, when the benefits available under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program are exhausted, that's when the Department of Health's Extended Health Benefits program kicks in. In cases like that when you have a longer period or an extended stay in the south, that's where Nunavummiut, including Inuit, can access support through the Extended Health Benefits program.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how stressful it is to deal with an illness, especially a serious one that carries on. The Department of Health is committed to supporting our clients however we can, as best as we can, with the resources we have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, once again. Mr. Speaker, the brain can be a powerful tool when it comes to illness and health. Being alone with limited resources in an unfamiliar city can be very difficult for some Nunavummiut. Boredom and depression are not helpful states of mind when it comes to the healing process. I encourage the minister and his department to continue looking at all avenues possible that are available outside of Nunavut that can help Nunavummiut during their healing process. It's pretty much just a statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. That just being a statement. Next name on my list... . Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 055 – 6(1): Situation in Ukraine

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody, and good morning as well to those Nunavummiut who have family and friends who are in Ukraine or who are Ukrainian. I have some family members who have mixed ancestry. One of the things that I thankfully learned at a very young age was that I have a fundamental human right to being proud of all of my family, and I hope that those who are of Ukrainian descent are doing well today.

On the subject of Ukraine, my question is for the Premier. I want to follow up today with the Premier concerning the statement that he made regarding the situation in Ukraine. It has been reported that he and the two other territorial premiers have co-signed a letter to the Prime Minister, a copy of which has apparently been obtained by the news media. When will he table his letter in the Legislative Assembly so that all MLAs can be aware of its contents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa for that question. We all know that it puts the people of Ukraine in a precarious situation and we feel the effects it has on the entire world.

We have granted \$25,000 to the Red Cross to help with the situation and yes, we wrote a letter as premiers of the three territories and once it's finally drafted, I will table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response, Premier. In the meantime, can you confirm what specific actions you and the other territorial premiers have requested on the part of the federal government in that letter? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member once again. It's in two-fold. We know that from the north, we try to make sure that everybody is protected. We indicated to the Prime Minister that we would like to have a meeting and we will make sure that all are covered in the letter, but we are concerned about the people of the north and how we can prepare for any situation that might arise.

The federal government and our staff are working together at this moment. We would like to have a meeting with the Prime Minister to make sure that they are aware of where

we stand in this situation. Premiers Silver and Cochrane were also notified of this letter. We will also outline this in the First Ministers' Meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his responses so far. In the past, Nunavut has participated in activities of the Arctic Council and I think it was five or six years ago we hosted a summit meeting here in the Chamber. I'm wondering: can the Premier update us today on the impact of the Ukraine situation on the work of the Arctic Council? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. Yes, it's outlined in the letter as one of our concerns. We have expressed the need to work together in the circumpolar world and we indicated that to the Prime Minister. It is outlined in our letter and I look forward to that meeting with the federal government to express our concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Question 056 – 6(1): Arenas and Recreational Infrastructure

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the issue of recreational infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, almost half of Sanikiluaq's population is under the age of 20. It is essential that we provide opportunities for them to engage in healthy lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, recreational infrastructure supports healthy communities and active lifestyles, and is an important part of our well-being.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq's infrastructure plan identifies a number of repairs and improvements that need to be made to the community's arena.

As the minister is aware, his department's 2021-22 capital budget allocated \$1.2 million for arena upgrades in a number of communities.

Can the minister confirm how much funding Sanikiluaq has received during the current fiscal year for arena repairs and upgrades? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking on arenas. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services has developed

business cases around arenas for several communities. At this time in this fiscal year, Gjoa Haven, Chesterfield Inlet, and Arctic Bay have been prioritized. However, I can't specify exactly how much funding has been allocated to Sanikiluaq for the required upgrades to their facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. As the minister is aware, his department invested several million dollars for the construction of Rankin Inlet's new arena, which I understand is now operational.

As the minister may be aware, Sanikiluaq's arena is over three decades old and in need of replacement due to its condition and the growing size of the community. This need has been identified in Sanikiluaq's Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plan.

Can the minister clarify what criteria his department uses in determining when to fund the construction of new community arenas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm battling with my mask today too like my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, at the Department of Community and Government Services, we look at a number of factors before proceeding with capital projects of this nature and given the needs across the territory and it's a rigorous process that we are going through right now, actually, with presenting our capital estimates and forecasted over the next several years.

Mr. Speaker, we work with many different stakeholders as well, first and foremost the communities. As the member stated, the integrated community sustainability plans also help inform how we move forward, but also with the limited financial resources we do have, we can only proceed with certain projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. In addition to arenas, community halls, and other pieces of large infrastructure, Sanikiluaq would also benefit from investments in such areas as playgrounds and small recreational equipment. Can the minister clarify how his department works with municipalities to identify funding opportunities for small-scale recreational investments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, there are different funding programs and not just with the territorial government but also federally. We do try to support municipalities if they do want to submit proposals

around small projects for recreational purposes, and I do encourage the members and their local hamlet councils to reach out to the department on how they can access those funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 057 – 6(1): “Do Not Work” Order

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, on February 3 there was a fuel leak identified at Aqsarniit Middle School, and quite publicly the chair of the district education authority here in Iqaluit stated that there were some communication breakdowns with this “do not work” order.

For the sake of the public’s education, can the minister describe how a “do not work” order is issued and how it is communicated with the staff and stakeholders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question. Unfortunately I do not have that information at this time, but I will commit to getting back to the member in the near future with a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That’s disappointing to hear.

Mr. Speaker, according to the media coverage of this issue, there was a verbal “do not work” order placed on February 3, but staff were not aware until February 7.

I’m not even sure how to proceed with my question, Mr. Speaker.

The district education authority chair and the principal said that there was conflicting info, and they feel that they were kept in the dark for days.

Can the minister respond on how something like that would be communicated to staff and stakeholders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Lightstone.

Hon. Adam Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member again. I do understand and appreciate the concerns of the member as well as all parties involved. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I do not have that information before me and in order to prevent any further disappointment in a partial or lack of a response, I will take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 058 – 6(1): Search and Rescue

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to Community and Government Services in regard to the line of questioning of the Aivilik MLA in regard to the search and rescue.

As the minister just mentioned, next week, he will meet with his federal counterparts when it comes to emergency services up here in Nunavut. As the member had mentioned, when the Hercules is dispatched, it's all the way from southern Canada, Trenton, I believe.

I would like to strongly encourage the minister that when he is having a discussion with the emergency up here in Nunavut in regard to the search and rescue, can the minister at least also mention that there are these other communities besides these three regional hubs, not to mention Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay?

As the minister is aware, the federal government has rebuilt the airstrip in Sanirajak and there are helicopter services in Sanirajak throughout the year. Like I said, again, I would strongly encourage the minister to make other communities have a say so that they can benefit because, if you can see on the map, Sanirajak is pretty much right in the centre of North Baffin, the Kivalliq, and the Kitikmeot.

Will the minister at least say that... ? I guess I'm advertising for my community of Sanirajak. Can he at least say that these smaller communities are capable of handling these kinds of services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman...Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. I don't know what it is with me today on Friday, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question of my meetings next week on emergency management. Mr. Speaker, the agenda is pre-set, but I will be putting forward Nunavut's concerns around how services are provided around the country and in respect to Nunavut. We are a different jurisdiction and we have unique needs. I will take into account the considerations that the member brings forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, emergency preparedness is of utmost importance here in Nunavut, and absolutely, I agree that the Arctic provides a unique situation, especially in the cold season.

I also wanted to add that just last week in Sanirajak, a person went through the ice on their snowmobile, but fortunately they had a partner to pull them to safety. These events can affect us adversely in our lives, as hunting is integral to our lives, and as Inuit we love eating our country foods, and sometimes we absolutely crave our country food, especially without any fresh food.

With emergency preparedness being an issue, we urge our communities to prepare for such emergencies, to use Sanirajak as an example, along with our fellow Amittuq residents from Igloodik who live on an island, while we are on the mainland. There can be more accruable benefits from development, not just us as constituents of the riding but for other communities as well.

I am curious how you will portray the situation which I want to understand, as I imagine precursory plans have already been made, so when you are discussing the future and importance of emergency preparedness, can you advocate for this service to be housed within Nunavut, for example, emergency services currently provided by the military? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that issue and concerns he has relayed to my attention. The emergency preparedness, or the SAR teams in various communities who conduct searches in Nunavut, either conduct local or Canada-wide searches.

Once an opportunity arises, I will be able to present the issue, and open it up for discussions and to have this issue researched as to how we can better operate and coordinate our searches especially in the way it is practiced today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his commitment towards that ideal, and that he will make a presentation in the future. This is not really a question, nonetheless, when it comes to emergency preparedness, it impacts all of us, hence its' importance in the grand scheme of life.

Now, this isn't really a question on the number of communities, but Nunavut has 25 disparate communities, which we are all aware of. When looking at potential economic development opportunities, one must continuously keep the decentralized communities in mind, especially this government.

We must empower our decentralized communities with more capacity, especially when opportunity arises, as there are many qualified and capable residents in these smaller communities. I urge the minister to visually showcase the expenses related to operating here in Nunavut, and we can crop our expenses and retain the funding territorially if the positions were in Nunavut, and here I mean SAR positions, along with other emergency positions.

As I mentioned, it isn't really a question but I wanted to emphasize the importance of search and rescue and emergency preparedness here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. That just being a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 059 – 6(1): Homeless Students

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. I'm interested in this globally, but specifically, can you tell me how many students enrolled in schools are homeless? Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister for Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to our colleague for the question. We all know that homelessness is an issue that Nunavummiut face and it's something that I as well as everyone in our room here and across the territory doesn't want to see. I don't have those statistics on me, but I would be happy for the department to look into it and hopefully we don't have any homelessness with our school-age population, but I will report back when I know the information. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for the response, minister, and also for advice to avoid using pronouns in my questions.

I'm wondering: are there specific programs in curriculum to help students manage the impact of being homeless? I think, anecdotally, we know that many children in Nunavut are homeless and that trauma-informed approaches to supporting children in their education are extremely important. I'm wondering what the department does right now to support those students. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* once again for the question regarding programming and what we do. There are differences across the community with programs, but I am happy to say that a lot of our communities and schools do operate food programs and we have seen great examples across our territory where our schools

are able to nourish the minds and bodies of our school-age children with healthy and nutritious foods that really gives that impact for enhanced learning and retentiveness to the children. Each school has a different set-up and some schools are able to do the programs in the school and some operate in other areas of town. I do know that these programs are very important and we do have the breakfast programs and sometimes lunch programs.

We also have school-based mental health and well-being supports for our students. Our department is committed to ensuring that the minds and the well-being of our students are taken very seriously, and there are a range of programs that are offered to our students in our schools. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate those responses as well, and I don't think anybody can deny that feeding children is really important, though it doesn't actually house them.

Forgive me; I'm just building my knowledge here on this issue, this subject. The minister did mention that there is some mental health support for students. I'm curious about whether or not there is an actual long-term plan that has been developed for supporting children who are homeless in their education and who is involved in that, how many other departments or divisions does Education work with, and are educators a part of that plan. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* again for the question to our colleague. I can say that all of our children in Nunavut have some type of housing and our colleague here, the Minister of Housing, has stated that we're going to look into different types of housing, and yesterday I spoke to the Department of Family Services providing funding for youth shelters.

Coming from Cambridge Bay and looking into that specific question for our community as the MLA, I know those are great assets and supports and it's up to the communities to create those incentives for those spaces. I think that the more support we have for our youth to thrive and flourish, the better they will be and we want to create those spaces.

I just look forward to continuing this dialogue and continuing the discussion on how we can enhance and support our students' well-being, their mental and emotional health, feeding them, and the whole well-being of the overall children in our territory. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 060 – 6(1): New Health Centre for Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again. I have follow-up questions for the Minister of Health regarding the Baker Lake Health Centre. I'll be speaking English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake is next in line for planning and design of a new health centre facility for Nunavut. I'm wondering: what is the status of the preplanning for Baker Lake's new health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Looking at all of the health centres in Nunavut, the absolute priority replacement is Qikiqtarjuaq and right next to it is Baker Lake. We want all health centres to be welcoming and a good workplace. We recognize that Nunavummiut have to be taken care of in a proper building, in a proper place, and our staff need to have a good, welcoming workplace.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, Baker Lake is second in the priority ranking for a new health centre. Currently in terms of the preplanning process, the department has brought that forward for consideration in terms of inclusion in the preplanning envelope. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. Does the minister know when the tender will be issued for the planning and design of the new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently I don't have a date for that. In terms of the process, we would normally get the project into the preplanning envelope first. I believe the question was regarding detailed design. That would be the next step after preplanning.

However, we do know it as a fact that the Baker Lake Health Centre is inadequate; it's too small for the community's needs. All rooms are multi-purpose to allow for the high capacity of client care. The kitchen is often used as a staffroom and the non-clinical rooms are now utilized for record filing and storage, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again, minister. I'm glad you mentioned earlier that the facility should be welcoming. (interpretation) It's understood that they have to be welcoming and I'm glad that you stated that.

(interpretation ends) I'm wondering: will his officials be flying into Baker Lake to see firsthand...well, first of all, my beautiful community, see it first-hand and to meet with the health care staff that are working in there and to go further on to meet with some of my constituents, such as the youth and the elders, that will be making use of the facility when they are not feeling well and they need to see a health care professional? Will the minister commit to have his health care staff come into Baker Lake to meet with my people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the invitation to the community. I have exchanged a number of pieces of correspondence with the Hamlet of Baker Lake recently, and we do have a number of interesting projects in the community. Yes, I will commit to visiting the community; I just cannot specify when that will happen. I'll work with the member to figure that out. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 061 – 6(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation Financial Issues

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have more questions today for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. They will focus on the corporation's financial position and related matters.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent annual report, which the minister tabled earlier this week, notes that a bill was passed by the previous Legislative Assembly to forgive a debt owed by a municipality in Nunavut.

Can the minister confirm approximately how much money is currently owed to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and which may need to be written off or forgiven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the figures in front of me as to how many will be forgiven. Once I have the information in front of me, I can relay it to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The annual report also confirms that it would cost approximately \$39.0 million to remediate 27 contaminated sites. As the minister is aware, there have been long-standing issues concerning whose responsibility it is to pay for the cleanup. Can the minister update the House today on what progress has been made in respect to determining responsibility for these costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any spillage unto lands is required to be cleaned up, and if they are recent, Qulliq will work on the spillage. However, if the original spillage is antiquated or old, then it would have to be financed by the federal government as it falls under land reparations. The entire amount required for previous spills and cleanup work for the reparations total a little over \$47 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday of this week, my colleague from Netsilik asked questions about the Qulliq Energy Corporation's next general rate application. In her response to my colleague, the minister stated that "the price of electricity is different in the different communities and there are many different rates. We are looking into this to see how they can be standardized." As the minister will be aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's last application back in 2018 requested approval to move to a territorial-wide rate structure, but this was not approved.

Can the minister clarify if the Qulliq Energy Corporation plans to again request approval to move to a territorial-wide rate structure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Ms. Quassa.

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank our colleague for asking that question. This matter he raises in his question will require further consideration as it needs additional approvals, or if we need to massage it so that we ensure payments are made on payable items. I mean electrical payable items here, so I can commit to that and in having it standardized as it is still being reviewed as to how to make it standardized, so that all communities can pay the same rates here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, our time allotted for question period...Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, to extend oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays?

An Hon. Member: Nay.

Speaker: There is a nay, so we will continue on to the next item. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have one...I have a few.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. I have a number of documents to table today.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 011 – 6(1): 2020-21 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

Tabled Document 012 – 6(1): Response of the Representative for Children and Youth to the Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations on the Review of the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth

Tabled Document 013 – 6(1): 2020-21 Pension Administration Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

Tabled Document 014 – 6(1): 2020-21 audited financial statements under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act

Tabled Document 015 – 6(1): 2020-21 audited financial statements under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act

Tabled Document 016 – 6(1): Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits to the Members of the Fifth Legislative Assembly for the Period April 1, 2021 to November 17, 2021

The first document is the *2020-21 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer*.

The second document is the *Response of the Representative for Children and Youth to the Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations on the Review of the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth*.

The third document is the 2020-21 Pension Administration Report under the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

The fourth document is the 2020-21 audited financial statements under the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act*.

The fifth document is the 2020-21 audited financial statements under the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

The sixth document is the Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances, Expenses and Benefits to the Members of the Fifth Legislative Assembly for the Period April 1, 2021 to November 17, 2021. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 009 – 6(1): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, March 14, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during this present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Motion 010 – 6(1): Early Adjournment

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 19. Sorry. The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried and we will proceed to Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 14:

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
 - Motion 9 – 6(1)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
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. We will be adjourning for the weekend and return on Monday, and I thank all of you for your work as MLAs, and we must work together to assist our fellow citizens and residents of Nunavut.

Now, as we prepare to adjourn for the weekend, I wish to speak of my thoughts about our fellow Inuit, so I wanted to briefly touch upon the concerns and comments for newer members. In our communities we state that we are elected by our communities based on our election promises.

In Gjoa Haven we now have two different radio stations that air locally. One is on AM radio, while the other is FM radio. Mainly CBC from Inuvik or the Dene radio broadcasts, and I sometimes listen to that channel when I want to hear (interpretation ends) country music, (interpretation) as that is the main genre they play.

>>*Laughter*

They allow people to go on air and sometimes have call-in shows for the Dene people such as those from Fort Providence, and I wanted to speak to this story, if I am clear and understandable as I will try to say some words I hear, so if I say a word, and you don't understand I apologize and blame it on the radio shows I listen to.

It seems like they are speaking about issues on radio, but in this dialect, "*asii mahi sahihasi si Tony Akoak, sihasihahahihii*" is an example where I seriously thought I heard my name mentioned and suddenly my ears perked up, although it was a completely foreign language.

(interpretation ends) Maybe I am eligible to become a chief someday...

>>*Laughter*

...to leave you with a light heart.

This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 10:52*

