

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)
*Minister of Environment; Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation; Minister of Energy*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. P.J. Akeegok
(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*

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Finance, Chair of the
Financial Management Board;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Hon. Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)
*Minister of Culture and
Heritage; Minister of
Languages; Minister responsible
for Seniors*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

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

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of Education;
Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College*

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

Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

George Hickey
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
*Deputy Speaker and Chair of the
Committee of the Whole*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)
*Minister of Family Services;
Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister of Human
Resources;*

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)
*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)
*Government House Leader; Minister of
Community and Government Services*

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Members Present:

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

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak): Before we proceed with the meeting, I ask Ms. Killiktee to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon to all of you who are present here in the Chamber.

Unfortunately the Member for Rankin Inlet North and Chesterfield Inlet will be absent from the House until early June due to medical appointments, and the Member for Aivilik will also be absent due to weather and transportation issues. He should be in the House by next Monday.

While the Assembly building is open to the public, the wearing of masks continues to be mandatory, including when sitting in this Chamber.

Members, I would like to take this time to remind members to conduct themselves in keeping with the rules of this Assembly. During this spring session and for sessions to follow, we need to show respect for one another, for this institution and most importantly, for those who elected us.

We need to treat each other with dignity and take pride in the work that we do here, and we should always remind ourselves that we are here to serve as representatives for the people that elected us and put their trust in us. I know I speak for all of you when I say that it is an honour for us all to be here on behalf of our constituents.

Now it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of Nunavut:

Money Message

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Second Session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023*; and
- Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023*.

Sincerely, Eva Qamaniq Aariak, Commissioner of Nunavut.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Ministers' Statements. My apologies. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 002 – 6(2): Notice of Budget Address

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and the people of Rankin Inlet and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to notify my colleagues that on Thursday, May 26, I will introduce the 2022-23 budget on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. This budget will outline our government's financial priorities for the fiscal year 2022-23. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 003 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Sign Nunavut Partnership Declaration

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to the people of Nunavut and my constituents in Iqaluit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the establishment of the Nunavut Partnership Protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

On March 25, President Aluki Kotierk and I signed a declaration to formalize our working relationship in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this protocol is another step towards our ongoing efforts to strengthen the Government of Nunavut's working relations with NTI. This partnership declaration followed the release of the *Katujjiluta* mandate, which was developed in collaboration with Nunavut's Inuit organizations.

The creation of the Nunavut Partnership Committee builds on the 2020 *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* to advance our joint work. The goal is to identify solutions, provide guidance, and address challenges.

The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have previously collaborated on the *Clyde River Protocol* in 1999, *Iqqaanaijaqatigiit* in 2004, *Aajiiqatigiinniq* in 2011, and the *Katujjiqatigiinniq Protocol* in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with NTI to achieve the priorities in our mandate, including addressing Nunavut's housing gap. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 004 – 6(2): Distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests and Masks to Nunavut Businesses

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues, I'm happy to see you back in the House. I also send my regards to the people of Quttiktuq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as we all know, Nunavut's small businesses have been resilient and innovative these past two years. Many have had to shift, adjust, and adapt their businesses to what continues to be a challenging and ever-changing economic and working environment.

With many pandemic-related restrictions now being removed or eased, businesses are focusing more and more on continued growth and prosperity for themselves, the people they employ, and the clients they serve.

To accommodate and support both their staff and their customers, Nunavut businesses have had to incorporate many health and safety components into their operations. These include but are not limited to providing staff and, at times, customers with access to personal protective equipment, additional safety gear and, in recent months, greater access to self-monitoring tools such as rapid antigen test kits.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the department has recently advanced its efforts to support Nunavut businesses by expanding the distribution of a further 15,000 rapid antigen tests and additional masks to all eligible Nunavut businesses. Effective this past month, any eligible Nunavut business may request and receive rapid antigen test kits and disposable masks by contacting the department's community operations offices in Kugluktuk (for the Kitikmeot), Rankin Inlet (for the Kivalliq), and Pond Inlet (for the Qikiqtaaluk). I strongly encourage Nunavut businesses to take advantage of these important health and safety supports.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that all efforts to support Nunavut businesses within this initiative would not have been possible without the direct assistance of the Government of Nunavut's COVID Secretariat and the Public Health Agency of Canada. I thank both organizations and their staff for their continued support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 005 – 6(2): National Immunization Awareness Week

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, April 23 to April 30 was National Immunization Awareness Week in Canada. This special week aims to bring awareness to both the effectiveness of vaccines and the impact that immunization has on saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is more important now than ever to recognize that vaccines are safe and are the best protection against severe diseases and illnesses, including COVID-19.

(interpretation ends) The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. As public health measures ease and new variants continue to spread, it's important to take steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones. As Dr. Patterson has frequently said, the COVID-19 vaccine is the best protection against the virus. It is important to stay up to date with your COVID vaccinations, including booster doses as immunity decreases with time.

All Nunavummiut five years of age and older are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Depending on age and other factors, the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses you are eligible for varies. At this time:

- For individuals 18 years and older who have received two doses of the vaccine plus one booster dose four and a half months or more ago, a second booster dose is now being offered.
- For immunocompromised individuals, the vaccine series involves three doses. The third dose is now available to immunocompromised children aged 5 to 11.

I'm thankful to be a 'boosted' person with an additional dose of COVID vaccine, along with many of my colleagues in this Assembly. First, second or booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccines continue to be available across the territory. Please call your local health centre to make an appointment or if you have any questions about how many doses you are eligible for.

Uqaqtitsijii, while the world has focused on COVID-19, Immunization Week also reminds us to ensure our other, routine vaccinations are up to date. Talk to your health

centre to ensure you are fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 006 – 6(2): Reinvesting in Education

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Hello to Nunavummiut and those in the House with us today.

Mr. Speaker, the *Katujjiluta* mandate has identified “Reinvesting in Education” as a priority of this government. The ambitions identified in the mandate can only be achieved through meaningful partnership and collaboration. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize the strides made by Nunavut Arctic College and the stakeholders who support this important work.

Nunavut Arctic College has recently revitalized the Nunavut Teacher Education Program to incorporate the foundation of Inuktitut language and culture. This work was made possible through the support and direction of an advisory committee made up of representatives from the Government of Nunavut, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The ultimate goal of this program is to graduate more bilingual teachers to work within the Nunavut education system.

>>Applause

In addition to the revitalization of the program, third party funding has also allowed the program to expand to more communities than ever before. Members, I am proud to confirm that starting in September 2022, the first year of the revitalized Nunavut Teacher Education Program will be offered in the following communities: Arctic Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Kinngait, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanirajak, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove.

These communities are in addition to the communities offering year two and onward, which includes: Arviat, Baker Laker, Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Nauyasat, Pangnirtung, and Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, these developments are significant and it is important that the commitments and contributions of our third party funders are recognized. I would especially like to acknowledge the Nunavut Implementation Panel and the Partnership Table on Education and Language. *Quana* to our partners for supporting education in the territory, which in turn helps us build a strong foundation for Nunavummiut. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 007 – 6(2): Announcing Annual Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship 2022

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and (interpretation) my fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the Qulliq Energy Corporation's annual Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier Scholarship. This scholarship assists in supporting a promising Nunavut student enrolled in post-secondary education.

This \$5,000 scholarship commemorates Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier, an outstanding role model and respected community leader. Ms. Gauthier was instrumental in establishing Nunavut's own energy utility.

Mr. Speaker, through this scholarship, \$5,000 will be awarded to one of Nunavut's most gifted students based on leadership qualities, commitment to community, career goals, and academic achievements.

All Nunavut students enrolled in post-secondary studies are encouraged to apply by June 30, 2022. Application forms and further information can be found on the Qulliq Energy Corporation's website or by contacting the Qulliq Energy Corporation's customer care division.

Mr. Speaker, students determined to complete their studies and pursue their goals should be admired and supported. Each year the number of applicants has increased, and we get to learn more about the contributions of our youth across Nunavut, which is rewarding and inspiring for our future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in spreading the word to post-secondary students from all our communities. Let's encourage them in their studies, and let's ensure they know about the Laura Ulluriaq Gauthier scholarship and where to apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 008 – 6(2): Red Fish Art and Welding Studio

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce new funding for a youth training initiative in the Kitikmeot region. Funded by the Department of Family Services'

Career Development Division using the Targeted Labour Market Program, the new funds will be directed to the Red Fish Art Studio's welding program in Cambridge Bay.

The welding program has operated since 2018 to prepare at-risk youth for entry-level work as welders. Started initially as a joint effort between the hamlet, RCMP, the Department of Justice, and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Department of Family Services has now joined as a partner. By contributing \$369,137, the Department of Family Services will help enable the program to start offering Canadian Welding Bureau Certification to program participants and eventually, other Nunavummiut.

Nunavut's growing economy has a high demand for skilled trades workers. The welding program at Red Fish Art Studio is meeting this demand by offering youth between the ages of 17 and 30 the opportunity to learn welding through mentoring, on-the-job training, and work experience.

Graduates of this program leave with a diverse range of skills and can work in a variety of industries, including manufacturing, mining, shipbuilding, construction, and automotive. Perhaps more importantly, all the participants say their lives and mental health improved because of the program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 011 – 6(2): Reflections on Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "good afternoon" to Iqalummiut as well as Nunavummiut, as well as our very first visitors joining us in the gallery today.

I would also like to thank you personally, Mr. Speaker, for your opening remarks, reminding us to respect one another and honour this Assembly and those who elected us to be here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the roles and responsibilities we have as Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that all members would agree when I say that being elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly is a tremendous honour. Regardless of where one sits in this House, there is much that we can accomplish together.

Over the past half-decade, I have truly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to our territory's development and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I am also confident that all members would agree with me when I say that there is much work still to be done.

As I look to the future, I can assure you, my colleagues, and all of my constituents that I will continue to do my very best on behalf of our territory.

Mr. Speaker, as a father of young children, I am very mindful of the fact that decisions which we make in this House will affect their future and the future of their children and the future of all of our children.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of our spring sitting and the consideration of the government's budget and main estimates. As MLAs, two of our core functions are the consideration of proposed budgets and bills. In our non-partisan, consensus style of government, all members play an important role, and I look forward to working with my committee colleagues in a collegial manner.

Mr. Speaker, I've just got a few short sentences remaining and I would like to request unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Assembly, we set out a number of important goals and it is imperative that we collaborate in order to achieve those goals.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note that our government has made considerable effort to return to the consensus style of governance in which the Nunavut land claim negotiators had intended, and this was clearly evidenced in the Full Caucus participation in the development of the *Katujjiluta* mandate.

Mr. Speaker, we must do our part as an Assembly to continue that effort, and I look forward to continuing our important committee work in collaboration with our government and watching the resulting developments unfold over the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to honour this Assembly and do my very best to honour my constituents who put me in this role. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 012 – 6(2): Congratulations to Pirurvik Preschool Graduates and Leaders

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to rise today to congratulate the members of the 2022 graduating class at Pond Inlet's Pirurvik Preschool.

Mr. Speaker, these young students are taking their first steps along what I hope will be a lifelong journey of learning. This year's students are:

- Peterson Enoogoo
- Navana Inuarak
- Derek Kadloo
- Rebecca Kadloo
- Paul Killiktee
- Alicia Komangapik
- Hilary Lily Mike
- Kolton Nutarak
- Joy Alice Qanguq
- Nathan Qitusalik
- Maya Suno

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud today to inform you and all of my colleagues of the recent national recognition that was achieved by the Pirurvik Preschool.

Mr. Speaker, in April of this year, the recipients of the Governor General's Innovation Awards were announced. The official citation for the award stated that:

“Based in Mittimatalik / Pond Inlet, Pirurvik Preschool is receiving a Governor General's Innovation Award for their transformational early childhood education initiative that blends Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Inungnuinniq with Montessori methods.

The model allows children to learn at their own pace, providing them with a positive, evidence-based first experience with education that is culturally relevant, while also supporting language revitalization with the active use of Inuktitut in the early childhood learning environment.

Their model is being successfully supported in other communities across Nunavut and is being recognized across the circumpolar world.”

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize my friends and former colleagues, Tessa Lochhead, Leah Kippomee, and Jeeteeta Kalluk... (interpretation) Darn, not Jeeteeta Kalluk. I apologize.

(interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are none. Please continue, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): I'm sorry for rushing sometimes.

(interpretation ends) ...Jeeteeta Merkosak and the teachers at the preschool, Julie Pewuatualuk, and Selena Enoogoo for their well-deserved recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 013 – 6(2): Arviat Fishing Derby

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good day" to you. I celebrate with the people of Arviat on a successful fishing derby that was held on the weekend for cod and sculpin. I congratulate all the winners. The people who drilled the fishing holes have stronger arms now.

>>Laughter

A few days ago there was a fishing derby for trout and pike. I also congratulate the winners of that derby. It is an exciting event. Fishing derbies are enjoyed by families outdoors, weather permitting, but there is not much you can do when the weather gets bad.

People of Arviat, I wish you a good day. Our proceedings will be televised, so I say "good day" to you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member's Statement 014 – 6(2): Appreciation for Supports during Pandemic

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to express my appreciation on behalf of my constituents in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

We are extremely grateful as communities for the tremendous assistance we received during the COVID pandemic from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association provided a lot of support to my constituency communities and I thank you for that as it was very useful, giving out funds for people to buy food. Thank you for helping us that way.

The hamlets in our communities as well in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, thank you for taking good care of your constituents in both communities and your people. You took real good care of your people, the people whom we represent. They were taken care of very well through financial means as well. They were given some money to buy extra food during this horrible pandemic.

I would like to talk about the economic development officers in Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq. Both workers made proposals to get money to buy things for the communities, such as food. They were able to do that very well. The recreation committees and the Co-op and other groups, on behalf of my constituents, I thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Member's Statement 015 – 6(2): Recent Events in Kugluktuk

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Kuglukturmiut, and Nunavummiut. I want to take this time to recognize the Northern Store for donating funds to the Kugluktuk High School, \$103,000, and to the Jimmy Hikok Ilihakvik School, \$15,000, and also to the Kugluktuk Youth Centre, \$55,000. I would like to recognize them for that, for sharing funds with them.

I also wanted to take this time to recognize all the racers or all the race committees and all the people and all the volunteers who help with the Nattiq Frolics and Umingmak Frolics. They did a good job and *quana* to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 016 – 6(2): 2022 Umingmak Frolics

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in thanks and acknowledgement for the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay, the recreation department, and the committee members for both the Umingmak Frolics and the Umingmak Frolics Racing Committee, the first responders and the sponsors of the Umingmak Frolics.

Mr. Speaker, a heartfelt thanks of appreciation to all those who played a hand in making this year's 2022 Umingmak Frolics a great success. After a long two years, our community was happy and delighted to be together again during our annual spring festival.

Our frolics include highly anticipated annual events that the community looks forward to, such as games, corporate challenges, talent shows, snowmobile races, fishing derbies,

seal derbies, just to name a few of the highlights. This happens over a jam-packed, ten-day schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank those who have dedicated their time to volunteer for our community. Your actions and time is appreciated by all. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 017 – 6(2): Premiere of *Slash/Back*

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the movie that was filmed in Pangnirtung in 2019.

Nyla Innuksuk wrote and directed *Slash/Back*. The movie was screened in Pangnirtung on May 10 and 11. It is about young teenagers who are killing off alien invaders.

The film crew was in the community in 2019. I wanted to recognize them. Many people couldn't wait to see the movie, obviously, and there were some recognizable faces on screen.

I would like to recognize the film crew: Melisa Hood, Tasiana Shirley, Chelsea Prusky, Nalajoss Ellsworth, Rory Anawak, Frankie Vincent-Wolfe, and one of our very own pages in the House, Alexis Vincent-Wolfe, whom I also recognize as a part of the group.

>>*Applause*

They were very fun to watch. I'm sure that many people are looking forward to June 24, when there will be other screenings. It has been screened in Pangnirtung and Iqaluit already, but I am very happy that it proceeded very well in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 018 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Daughter Lily

Hon. Craig Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my daughter, Lily Atangalaaq. She had a birthday in March and she is now 12 years old.

Before I left Baker Lake, she was really busy in her room and I didn't know what she was doing, but just before I left, I was asked to go there and I became very proud of her and this is what I'm wearing. She made this. I am very happy about that.

>> *Applause*

Lily, I love you. (interpretation ends) I'll see you in three weeks. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 019 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Wife Carol

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was my dear wife's birthday two days ago and she enjoyed her day as we celebrated together. I would like to thank her very much for helping me rise up and doing real good things for me. She dresses me really nicely and fixes my hair very nicely.

>> *Laughter*

She takes good care of our children and grandchildren. Every birthday she has, I get more proud of her and I want to thank her very much, my wife Carol Akeegok, and I hope she has many more birthdays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 020 – 6(2): Igloolik Fishing Derby

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you and it's great to see everybody back in the House. I send my regards to all the people of Igloolik.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hamlet and recreation committee for what they did this past year. It seemed like Igloolik wasn't going to do that this year, but the hamlet and recreation committee put together outdoor activities and many people who took part indicated that they had a great time, and I am very proud of the people who won prizes, so I wanted to express my appreciation for that. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 021 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Daughter

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday was May 24 and it was daddy's girl's birthday, my girl, Charmaine Inukpaaluk Quqqiaq. Happy belated birthday, *panik*. I hope you're watching and I'm sure you're enjoying your lunch, and I love you, *panik*, and I'm on TV and I love you.

(interpretation) To my fellow residents of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk, I wish you a good day. I will be working hard for you. I was in Kugaaruk two days ago and to the people of Kugaaruk, I thank all of you for your very warm welcome. I will go there in the summertime and hopefully take part in the beluga hunts.

My daughter, I wish you a very happy birthday from two days ago. I love you, *panik*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 112 – 6(1): Arctic Security and Sovereignty

Return to Oral Question 113 – 6(1): Ministerial Handbook

Return to Oral Question 132 – 6(1): Housing Status of Cabinet Ministers

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling three returns to oral questions that were taken as notice during the 2022 winter sitting. They are No. 112, No. 113, and No. 132. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Joanna Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my two grandchildren who are in the gallery. They are very happy to be here to observe the proceedings for the first time. Please welcome Davidina Quassa and Alley Eli Quassa. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to your Assembly, and to the rest of the visitors in the gallery, welcome to the Assembly.

Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Item 6: Oral Questions

*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Oral Questions 112 – 6(1), 113 – 6(1), and 132 – 6(1).

Question 013 – 6(2): Sickness in Walrus

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, members and ministers. We have returned for the spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by directing my question to the person sitting right beside me, the Minister of Environment.

My reason for the question is that our walruses are getting sick, and my fellow Amittuq residents prefer to eat fresh walrus meat. The minister is also aware that there is a research laboratory in Igloolik.

My first question is whether the Department of Environment has any plans regarding the walruses that are getting sick. I wonder if the Department of Environment has made any plans to use the laboratory in Igloolik to conduct research on the sick walruses. It's almost walrus harvesting season up in Amittuq, so I would first like to know what their plans are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Department of Environment, we don't really handle those things. For example, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for walruses, and the Department of Health conducts research on wildlife diseases.

When testing is required, the Department of Environment is the usual avenue and that will continue. At this time the walruses are tested for trichinosis, which is prevalent in the animal. With that being the case, the testing is being done in Iqaluit. If outlying communities need to send in samples, they are sent through the Department of Environment or the health centres as soon as possible so that we can get the results in a timely manner. That's what we have planned currently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): It's unfortunate that the Department of Environment doesn't really deal with that due to the fact that they have biologists on staff. Our hunters also have the expertise. It seems like the government struggles with hiring wildlife biologists as it is a tough job to fill.

As the minister stated, the samples are sent to Iqaluit and my fellow Amittuq residents, as I just stated, are getting ready to harvest walruses. As you said, they do the testing as quickly as they can. As you said that you don't really handle those matters, I wonder if you can use the research lab in Igloolik to do the testing so that the results get back sooner indicating if it is safe to eat or not. For the hunters, can you create a position in Igloolik to deal with the walrus testing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment has done a lot of work in being able to test samples in Nunavut and we have worked with the Department of Health and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in terms of getting the samples assessed and training is being done through Nunavut Arctic College. It is progressing and they're constantly looking for faster testing methods.

Our office in Igloolik is more for polar bears and caribou or terrestrial animals. That's the work that they do. They are not biologists. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is more responsible for marine mammals. I will be able to have discussions with my ministerial counterpart in terms of the concerns in our communities with emerging health issues of animals and how we can provide more assistance in this area. I will continue to work on that file in my environment portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I strongly feel that the Department of Environment can do more. You guys are capable regarding the hunters and the wildlife, but when people's health is at risk from wildlife, we want to protect the people to support them as a department, to employ Inuit in the government, and to look at ways to improve this. You can provide employment because we can't reach 85 percent in the government of Inuit employment. I would like the minister to agree in the House for polar bears and caribou research. Perhaps they can add walrus to the species so that people don't get sick. I really want you to say yes, Mr. Minister, to my request in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Marine mammals are managed through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, such as narwhal, whales, and walrus. We don't deal with those species. I, too, would love to manage those species, but we do work closely with them.

In terms of new sicknesses, when you look at trichinosis, we used to send samples to Northern Quebec or to Montreal, which added another week to the testing. Now we do the testing here in Iqaluit. We will have a response in three days and we get a response right away. I am very proud of our research facility. It's run by Inuit. It's improved a lot. When I hear concerns like this, I can use these to help us speak with my fellow ministers and to work with them on these species. Thank you for this line of questioning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 014 – 6(2): Public and Staff Housing Construction

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

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, I was pleased that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been working to move forward with Taloyoak's new public housing units.

Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2022 the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for tender for the construction of two new public housing five-plexes in Taloyoak, one new staff housing five-plex in Gjoa Haven, and one new staff housing five-plex in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, the tender closed on March 16, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm the status of the tender award process for these new public and staff housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Here we go again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from my colleague. Mr. Speaker, we have closed the tenders for those projects and it's unfortunate that we will not be proceeding with any of those contracts as the prices were just way too expensive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was very unfortunate to hear.

My second question: can the minister clarify whether or not the Nunavut Housing Corporation will issue a new request for tenders to begin construction of new public housing units in Taloyoak during the 2022-23 fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me clarify a bit, maybe. We received 12 bids on seven projects, totalling 62 units for the housing corporation to build. Some of them are public housing units and some of them are staff housing units.

It's very unfortunate that the prices for construction were well over the cost of the budgeted amount for those units. Units were coming in at an average of \$1.1 million, or \$1,000 per square foot. The housing corporation just doesn't have that kind of money to produce those projects, so we have pulled back on those. We did not award any of those contracts.

The housing corporation right now is looking at ways to see if some of these projects may be able to go through and, if not, how we're going to tackle the issue of the high cost of

construction in Nunavut. We're working on that issue as we speak, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Katujjiluta* mandate indicates that one of the government's "strategic outcomes" is to add "at least 1,000 units of all types to the territory's stock of affordable and continuum of housing options."

During the recent winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister informed the House that it now "costs almost a million dollars to build a new unit."

Mr. Speaker, given the recent increase in the cost to build new housing, can the minister explain how the government can achieve its goal of adding 1,000 new units within the next three years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We definitely can't do it at \$1,000 per square foot. Mr. Speaker, these five-plexes are coming in at over \$5 million per five-plex. We can't build houses, not very many of them, at those prices. This government doesn't have that kind of money.

Mr. Speaker, the housing corporation is currently working and talking with the private sector to see how we can drop some of these prices to at least pre-COVID years. We need to be building houses, but we can't build them at \$1.1 million to close to \$2 million per unit. It's just not possible, not if we have a goal of 1,000 units. That goal is achievable and we are working towards that. We will be working and are working with the private sector to see if there are some ways around the cost of construction. As it is, we are being very innovative and trying to find ways to drop those prices.

I am hoping, over the next few weeks, to have something concrete to share with my colleagues with a plan in terms of how we could begin to reach that goal. That goal is very achievable, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about 1,000 units for Nunavummiut, which would be a combination of private and public housing and affordable housing. That number is reachable. Again, it's not reachable with the current amount of money the construction companies are coming in at. We are working to see how we could decrease that.

There are many other parameters that I could discuss, but I can't talk about them at this time. I'll come back with some firmer ideas and where we are going with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 015 – 6(2): Federal-Territorial Initiatives on Climate Change

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is quite a relief to be able to stand up in this House and ask questions again. Mr. Speaker, on this momentous occasion, my first questions will be for the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the Premier met with the Prime Minister in Ottawa. The official federal announcement from this meeting indicated that one of the topics that were discussed at the meeting was climate change.

This is also an issue that was brought up at the recent Northern Premiers' Forum in Whitehorse and is an issue that I have been raising since the day that I first took office as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the Premier can update the House today on any specific commitments that he received from the Prime Minister concerning the issue of climate change in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think we all agree that we understand climate change affects every northerner and the significant impact it has. The Prime Minister and I shared the deep concern in terms of the impact that climate change has on our daily lives here, and we both agreed to continue to collaborate in terms of providing, over the coming months and years, addressing really the very important issue of climate change.

Climate change has been a key issue that we also discussed with my good friends at the Northern Premiers' Forum, where I had the opportunity to be welcomed by our good friend, Premier Silver. It was very evident as well in terms of how much impact climate change has on us. When we were just in Whitehorse, there was a slide that was there that stopped one of the main roads to the artery to the community, but also more so as well the flood that we saw in Hay River. I think we understand the significance and the importance we take climate change, and you look across right across our communities here where the ever-changing environment of our ice conditions, of the weather has been something our elders and our harvesters have been highlighting in terms of the importance we must address in terms of that.

As territorial governments, we will continue to do our part to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Mr. Speaker, the discussions with the Prime Minister as well as my colleagues of the northern premiers really indicated discussions about how any new infrastructure must be reliable and that is climate-resilient, and that any extra funding we do require requires to be flexible and to adapt to our governments' needs in terms of the challenges that we face. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for his response. Moving on to my next question, the recent Northern Premiers' Forum identified critical minerals as a priority area for action.

As the Premier is well aware, rare earth elements are essential for developing and a decarbonized green economy as they are needed for such technologies as computers, LED displays, wind turbines, and electric vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a new mining project in the Northwest Territories has begun producing rare earth concentrates. In fact this is the first mining project of such in Canada.

I would like to ask: can the Premier indicate how the federal government can better support the development of clean mining projects for critical minerals in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a good discussion on this subject and how we can better support the communities and to look at clean mining projects. This was an issue that was reviewed by the premiers of the three territories. We were looking at fisheries, critical minerals, and other projects that can better support the communities and that can be used for economic purposes.

Yes, this is the first project and we're looking at how we can put a better economic forum in Nunavut. Our office is starting discussions with the federal government and we are quite frank about what might be made available for all northerners and we do have to be included in those types of discussions when we are talking about clean mining projects. We emphasize that we have to be involved and again, this is the first project that has been initiated in the Northwest Territories.

We can't say how we're going to be affected in Nunavut, but we do want to be involved during the discussions on the subject. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased quite recently when the federal government signed off on an announcement to invest \$214 million to develop water infrastructure in Iqaluit that will enhance our community's climate change resiliency.

As the Premier is very much aware, the development of large-scale or alternative energy projects in the north will also require significant federal investment that is simply beyond our government's current financial means. I would like to ask: can the Premier describe the extent to which this issue was discussed during his recent meeting with the Prime Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. I do agree with him wholeheartedly about alternative energy projects and in regard to the \$214 million that will be used to develop water infrastructure in Iqaluit. This was initiated by the federal government. We know that we have to consider the other communities and also look at how we can make improvements when it comes to water infrastructure in the whole of Nunavut.

We also have to consider climate change. We would like to decrease our use of diesel, as it has an impact on climate change, and we are the most affected by that in Nunavut. This is going to be one of our ongoing priorities when we have discussions with the federal government to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

I can't focus on one subject, but we look at everything as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 016 – 6(2): Sanikiluaq Municipal Office

Mr. Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues and Nunavummiut, and I send my regards to the people of Hudson Bay.

(interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, Sanikiluaq's hamlet office was severely damaged in the year 2020 as a result of a major storm. I have strongly supported the replacement of this critical municipal infrastructure and I was very pleased to have voted in favour of capital funding for this project.

On March 28, 2022 the department issued a request for tender for the construction of the new office. The tender closed on April 25, 2022. Information published by the department indicates that two companies submitted bids. Can the minister provide an update today on the status of the tender process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his questions. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, in Sanikiluaq the new hamlet office building procurement that he requested about, the bid came in high and so we're going to need to seek additional funding to proceed with that project, and at this time that's the status, Mr. Speaker. I note that in the

winter sitting we did approve \$13 million for that project and it's beyond that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response, minister. My next line of questioning is that earlier this year the minister provided me an update on the design of the new facility. I was pleased that the department has acted on requests to ensure that the new facility has servicing space to “accommodate municipal and government services under one roof.” Can the minister confirm the department’s timeline for the construction and opening of the new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; we are incorporating the space to allow for Government of Nunavut offices and including the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, community corrections office, and Justice. We had to adjust our substantiation sheet for the project.

In terms of the timeline, I can't give a definitive update on when the construction would proceed, but once I have further details, I'll be able to follow up with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. If the project is not going to be cancelled for this fiscal year, how will your department approach new steps to issue another request for tender for the new hamlet office in Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, we haven't decided whether to retender the project, but after the first go-around has closed, we will have to seek additional funding to proceed with the project. Once I have an update, I'll let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Question 017 – 6(2): Mary River Project

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I made a statement in the House at our first sitting. At that time I spoke about the impact of the Mary River project on the

community of Pond Inlet and I acknowledged the strong views that many of my constituents have about the phase 2 expansion proposal.

Earlier this month the Nunavut Impact Review Board issued its reconsideration report and recommendations to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs. The board has recommended that the phase 2 proposal, as assessed, should not be permitted to proceed at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the board for its careful consideration of the proposal and I thank all of my constituents who participated in the review process.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut subsequently announced that it is undertaking a full review of the board's report and recommendations. Can the Premier clearly explain the process and timeline for this review? Thank you.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for this very good question. The member is correct. I want to first thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for working on this for several years and to add the adjacent communities and the not-for-profit organizations, government, and Inuit organizations worked diligently on the issue and expressed their concerns and opinions.

On May 13, she is correct, the board made their recommendations to the federal government and at this moment the federal government is entertaining the recommendation. Along with the Department of Environment, we are looking at a number of concerns raised on the issue. Our positions have also been included over our concerns, and the concerns are important. The voice of Nunavut has been heard and I think we're looking at it at the highest level.

With respect to the institution of public government, which the NIRB is under, since it's a recommendation to the federal minister, Minister Vandal, we cannot really make a comment at the moment and no doubt our concerns and opinions that we raised as government will also be considered. I can only comment on that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. In January of this year a number of parties, including the Municipality of Pond Inlet and the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization, submitted their final statement to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

The Government of Nunavut's final statement indicated that "...the GN does not have any remaining concerns with Baffinland's Phase 2 Project Proposal. If the expansion is approved, the GN will continue to fulfill its obligations to monitor and advise mitigation with respect to Phase 2. We will also continue our work to enforce territorial laws and regulations that apply the project, including with respect to taxes owing."

For the record, can the Premier confirm whether or not his government continues to support the phase 2 expansion proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague for that very good question. As government, we are constantly monitoring the situation as sustainable, responsible development. We all have our focus and this is our base. We know many Nunavummiut are employed in the project and many have concerns about the project. We have not changed our course as a government. We still continue to support sustainable development and looking at community concerns.

You are correct in that the concerns were submitted to the federal government and the comments and statements have been made and we also consider further concerns from the communities. Minister Akeeagok's department are looking into the matter and will continue to further look into the details to ensure no problems arise. It is the minister's responsibility. The minister can decide to accept the recommendation of the NIRB or reject it or perhaps to make changes or adjustments to the recommendations.

After his decision, we will look at where we go from there and I am very grateful that after this recommendation was made, I was able to speak with Inuit organizations along with our minister on the issue of the recommendations by the NIRB on the concerns that have been raised recently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak: *Qujannamiik*, Premier. (interpretation) Yes, we should be supporting each other, especially now with the five adjacent communities or impacted communities, which is very crucial at the moment.

(interpretation ends) Earlier this month the Premier met with the Prime Minister in Ottawa. Can the Premier confirm if he has personally discussed the issue of the phase 2 expansion proposal with either the Prime Minister or the federal Minister of Northern Affairs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague. Prime Minister Trudeau and I have discussed the items we have planned in the *Katujjiluta* mandate, along with how we can further support the adjacent communities.

We haven't really looked at the details of the phase 2 proposal, but we discussed employment and development in our communities and the partnership we want to create, not just in area of mining, but other sectors like the fisheries and so forth, the different sectors that can provide benefits to the communities. We have not discussed the details of the proposal.

After recommendations on the phase 2 proposal were submitted by the NIRB on May 13, I have not discussed the issue with Minister Vandal, but we will be expecting a decision soon and we will continue to make our plans from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 018 – 6(2): Status of Inuit Self-Government Negotiations

Mr. Savikataaq: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I guess the Premier's in the warm seat today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier, who is also the Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs.

As the Premier will recall, a formal resolution was passed at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's 2021 Annual General Meeting which called on the organizations to "seek a negotiation mandate with the Government of Canada to begin the exercise of the inherent right to Inuit Self-Government."

Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, the Premier moved the motion and actively supported this move when he served in his previous capacity as a member of NTI's board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, can the Premier confirm what discussions he has had with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's president concerning the proposal to enter into formal negotiations for Inuit self-government within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that good question. To date we have not discussed self-governance with Nunavut Tunngavik, but we are pleased that we have recently signed a protocol, a memorandum of understanding about where we want to go with the (interpretation ends) Nunavut Partnership Committee. (interpretation) We will use that as a basis and looking at lack of housing, which is commonly raised in Nunavut and also repatriating our elders to Nunavut. However, to date, as a new government, self-governance is not something that I have discussed with the president. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier is well aware, the Government of Nunavut is currently responsible for providing a wide range of public services to all Nunavummiut, including health care, education, and housing. These are some of the issues that the Premier just brought up.

For the record, which specific public services does the Premier think would be better delivered by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or other non-governmental organizations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. We all know that we are established here under Article 4 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. That was the vision of Inuit. I am pleased with that. Inuit are free to discuss what they want to consider. I cannot say what would be the priority. It's the people that have to make that decision.

What I'm saying is where we can work closer together for the benefit of Nunavummiut, around housing, for example. With respect our elders, we are continually prioritizing repatriating our elders. I make an effort to ensure our goal is with partnership. We are a small population with huge responsibilities and I will continue to look at that. If Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated decides to discuss self-governance, I will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my final supplementary, I will ask the Premier: will the Premier confirm to the House here that during the life of this Assembly, there will be no negotiations with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated about Inuit self-government within Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a hypothetical question, I can't respond, really, with something that might come forward within the timeline. I had indicated that I haven't had the discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and I can't project if there will be discussions beyond that. As such and if that discussion did ever occur, I would obviously look at it very carefully in terms of the situation that would bring forward. It's a very broad question in the sense of the ability for NTI, and obviously it's outside of our jurisdiction here with what NTI does and as such, I respect their jurisdiction. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 019 – 6(2): Agguttinni Territorial Park

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Well, this is exciting. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment.

On September 10, 2019 the federal and territorial governments announced \$4.7 million in federal funding under the Canada Nature Fund to support the establishment of the Agguttinni Territorial Park near Clyde River. This was very good news at the time.

The Legislative Assembly approved a \$1,127,000 capital carryover for this project during its June 2021 sitting. Earlier this year the Legislative Assembly approved additional capital funding for this project.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, on February 16, 2022 the department issued a request for tender for the construction of the new Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre. The tender closed in March 2022.

On Friday of last week, May 20, the department issued a notice indicating that the tender has been cancelled. This is very bad news.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clearly explain why the reasons why the tender has been cancelled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment. Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for asking the question. I know it is very regretful that the tenders for the capital projects that we initiate have proposals coming in way over budget. The bids were just too expensive, so we decided that we will reset it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you for the response. I also thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm when his department will issue a new tender for the Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now we are talking with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and they are trying to construct a building for a similar purpose in Clyde River. Because of that and looking at the budget we have for that project, we want to combine the two projects. Hopefully we can produce a building out of that. We are talking with that group and trying to make some plans along with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's project. They are trying to get a building constructed. It is very similar to the Agguttinni Territorial Park project. I expect that something will come out of this in the future, but we found that it was very hard and expensive to do it through the tendering process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's understandable. My constituents understand too. I wanted to make sure that they hear me ask these questions. I told them at lunchtime radio to listen and I told them I would be talking about this. It is very regretful and I understand the reason that it was just too expensive. The bids were just too high because the bids we are seeing these days and everywhere seem to be much higher.

The people of Clyde River have put a lot of work into this and they hold meetings regularly to plan and they are enthusiastically working hard. My constituents want to make sure that they get informed of any updates that come up.

Can the minister indicate if his department will require additional federal funding to proceed with the Agguttinni Territorial Park Office and Visitors Centre project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will try to keep them properly informed. I know the people in Clyde River are working hard and I thank them for doing that hard work to try to create the Agguttinni Territorial Park and we want to continue working with them.

The funding that we requested from the federal government for that building would come from the federal government and this House, and if there are any changes necessary during our discussions, we will work on those and the planning committee will take part in the whole process. Hopefully we can get this project going. If we can come to an agreement and work together, then we would use the money we get from the federal government and the money we get from the Nunavut government and work with the other group and try to produce a building. We will continue to do planning for that.

If there are any changes, I will tell my department to keep the communities informed and we will also keep the funders informed as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Question 020 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the new Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and they concern the issue of Kugluktuk's new power plant.

As the minister is aware, Kugluktuk's existing power plant is over 50 years old and in need of replacement.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation has been working towards the design and construction of a new hybrid diesel-solar power plant. Federal funding for this project under the Arctic Energy Fund was announced in August 2019.

In November 2021 the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a request for tender for the new power plant. Information published by the government indicates that although two companies provided submissions in response to the request for tender, no award has been made because “the bid validity period has lapsed.”

Can the minister clarify when the Qulliq Energy Corporation will issue a new tender for this project? *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my hon. colleague, for the question. Yes, that tender had lapsed. I believe, if I’m not mistaken, the tender bid prices came in well above the budget that the tender in the end was not awarded. They are looking at options going forward on what we’re going to do with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. The Qulliq Energy Corporation’s current corporate plan indicates that construction of Kugluktuk’s new power plant was supposed to have started during the 2021-22 fiscal year. However, it has been delayed due to budget issues and other factors.

Can the minister clarify what the current budget and timeline is for the construction of Kugluktuk’s new power plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleague, for the question. I apologize; I don’t have that level of detailed information right now, but I commit to getting back to the member with a proper response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Kugluktuk’s new power plant is a hybrid design that will be powered by both solar energy and diesel fuel. Can the minister clarify the extent to which this design has impacted the tendering process for the new power plant? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleague, for the question. I will attempt to give a proper response. I believe, if I'm not mistaken, there are two different funding avenues for the hybrid design. There is a bit of funding issues, I guess. Again I apologize for not having the detailed response available, but again I do commit to getting back to the member with a proper response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 021 – 6(2): General Rate Application

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give the new Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation an opportunity to show off the craftsmanship of his outfit that coincidentally has the same color scheme as Qulliq Energy's logo.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is all powered up and has been looking forward to questions on his first day of the spring sitting.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rate application has been recently submitted to the Utility Rates Review Council for consideration.

As I know the minister is aware, the general rate application proposes a number of significant changes to the way power rates are set in Nunavut.

For the record, can the minister confirm whether or not the Qulliq Energy Corporation's board of directors formally approved the general rate application prior to it being submitted to the Utility Rates Review Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague as well, especially to show off my *atigi*, which actually is a family color.

Once again, I don't have that level of detailed information. Having been here for a little over two weeks, I'm still trying to wrap my head all around this, but once again I do commit to getting back to the member with a proper response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will appreciate that information when the minister makes it available to us.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is also aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation's general rate application is proposing that "All customers of the same type would pay the same electricity rate regardless of where they are located in Nunavut." Mr. Speaker, the

application also proposes that “government rates increase to lower rates for non-government customers.”

Normally I would use Iqaluit as an example, but in this case, to take the community of Baker Lake as an example, information published by the Qulliq Energy Corporation indicates that the rate for commercial government customers in the community will increase by 31.8 percent. The rate for residential government customers, a category which includes public housing, will increase by 34.9 percent.

Can the minister clearly explain how these proposed changes will benefit the territory as a whole? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleague for the question. Yes, that is the intent to look at the territory as a whole to benefit it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked in what way was it going to benefit the territory across the board, and I’ll probably follow up with the minister at another opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, one of the scheduled agenda items at yesterday’s meeting of the Iqaluit City Council was the general rate application. Information published by the city indicates that the proposed general rate application, if approved, would result in a 71.5 percent increase in the rates paid by the city for its commercial accounts.

Mr. Speaker, in the event that the general rate application is approved, the city is considering requesting an Iqaluit-specific subsidy that would “not require the City to increase property taxes to offset the cost of power production and distribution in other communities.” Is the minister open to considering such a subsidy, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to my colleague for the previous response; I made a bit of an error there.

We are looking at all options available. We do not want to see a massive increase in property taxes here in Iqaluit. In fact, currently, the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation is in a meeting right now with the City of Iqaluit officials to look at options and to try to minimize any massive shock increases for Iqalummiut with any property taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 022 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My heart today is with my family, friends, and the whole community of Cambridge Bay who are impacted by the loss of the youth centre due to a fire on Monday. I just want to thank all the firefighters and those who responded. I'm so grateful that it seems that nobody was injured.

My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to remind my Iqaluit-Sinaa constituents, who also live in the 100 to 300 blocks, that due to today's emergency water shutdown, we are on a boil water advisory until further notice.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the very first question that I asked in the Legislative Assembly earlier this year during our winter sitting concerned the issue of water infrastructure. At that time I noted the importance of taking decisive action to address what can only be described as a crisis with respect to Iqaluit's aging and inadequate water infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, in April of this year the federal, territorial and municipal governments announced \$214.0 million in funding under the federal Disaster and Mitigation Adaption Fund for work that will create a new water reservoir and upgrade the distribution system. Mr. Speaker, this is a vital investment for our territory's growing capital city and I believe that all members can be proud of the work that went into the announcement.

Can the minister confirm the timeline for signing a formal contribution agreement for this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, I was glad to be on hand for that funding announcement that was made in April. It is a significant amount of federal funds that was announced with the city receiving upwards of \$214 million through Infrastructure Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The City of Iqaluit directly applied to Infrastructure Canada and we will be managing the funding agreement directly with them. Although CGS, my department, does not have a role in this agreement or project, we are continuing to support the city upon their request as this is their jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the announcement concerning this funding indicated that our Premier stated that, and I will quote him directly, "improving Iqaluit's

water infrastructure will be essential in paving the way for more homes in the City to address Nunavut's growing housing gap." Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more.

Can the minister confirm what role his department will play in the tendering process for this work and can he confirm that the provisions of the NNI Policy will apply to the contract? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, my department is playing a supportive role to the city on this project and we're in continuous discussions around, through the tendering process, whether or not the NNI... Remember, this is a City of Iqaluit project that has direct funding from the feds. We didn't submit a proposal on the city's behalf *per se* and so we want to respect the jurisdiction of the city, but where they need support, we will look at how we can provide that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for those responses. When I raised the issue of water infrastructure during our winter sitting, I very clearly stated that a significant number of Nunavut communities are in urgent need of investments to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water.

Rankin Inlet's utilidor issues and the impact of climate change on Grise Fiord's water supply are just two examples that come to mind.

Can the minister describe how his department assists Nunavut municipalities in applying for federal funding to support investments in water infrastructure? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. Mr. Speaker, our capital needs across the territory, especially with respect to water and wastewater, is in critical and dire situation, and we are trying to make some headway with respect to some of the projects that my colleague shared specifically around Rankin Inlet, Grise Fiord, as well as others.

With that, on funding arrangements, we try to tap into as many federal funding streams that we can and given the needs across the territory, prioritize which projects are shovel-ready and which ones need further planning. There are many projects that are in different stages, but my department works with all the other municipalities on how we're prioritizing projects, especially when water and wastewater serve every single building and house, needs those critical infrastructure, water and wastewater, provided to those.

That's something that my department is making sure that we try to put forward. When we're looking at developing new houses or infrastructure, it's something that we need to be mindful of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. I have no more names on my list. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 023 – 6(2): Status of Inuit Self-Government Negotiations

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to go back again to question the Premier, when he said it was a hypothetical question.

Mr. Speaker, just so it will be clear, I believe it was not a hypothetical question. I just wanted to know: during this term, during this Assembly, will there be any negotiations between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut government? It's not hypothetical; the government should have a position on whether they are willing to negotiate Inuit self-government or continue on as a Nunavut public government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the member across for raising the question. I apologize; I did say "hypothetical" in the sense where I haven't had discussions with NTI, so it's hard to respond to something in terms of the direction where Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is going in this. I haven't been provided any briefing from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and that's where my response in terms of that "hypothetical" did come.

It's obviously something that Inuit could choose to, it's within their inherent right, but as a government it's our duty, obviously, to continue to do all the important work that we do now as a public government, which serves majority 85 percent Inuit. The focus that I have taken to date has been on implementing *Katujjiluta*, which had the involvement of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the five priority areas, in particular the housing file as well as the elder file keep coming up as two areas where I truly see an opportunity for collaboration.

To the member's question, until the discussion does happen, then obviously I would explore and discuss and look at it very thoroughly, as we would as any government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I fully understand what the Premier said about NTI's agenda and he does not speak for NTI. I fully understand that, but the Premier speaks for the government. The Premier and cabinet will make a decision if NTI wants to

negotiate Inuit self-government. That's what I'm getting at, whether the Premier, as the head of government, is willing to negotiate Inuit self-government within this term.

The discussions haven't happened, but as the Premier, he should have a vision on what type of government that the Premier would like to lead during this Assembly. That is why I ask whether there is any intention. I'll ask the Premier one more time, Mr. Speaker: will there be any negotiations with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut for Inuit self-government within the life of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank my colleague. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is currently trying to figure out what they want to do before we can talk about negotiations. I can only say that once again, as a government, we are responsible to carry out our duties and we will keep going back to that. I cannot say anything currently that we could be doing and it is not clear they do want to go down that way as well. They have not said in any way what they want to do about self-government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll speak Inuktitut now.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will determine on their own whether they want to negotiate Inuit self-government. That is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's role. I am not asking the Premier about NTI's role. What I'm asking is: as the government leader, is he going to negotiate with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on Inuit self-government in the life of this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank you for asking another good question. I'm not focusing on making any decisions at this time. I would have to review it first. The member is correct in that I wouldn't be the sole decision-maker. I always seek direction from my cabinet colleagues whenever a decision has to be made. We haven't been given anything concrete from the Inuit organizations. It's up to them to go in that direction, but we don't really have anything to look at. We await NTI and also cabinet would review this as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, members. The time allotted to question period is now over. We will go to 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. Tabling of Documents. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Mr. David Akeegok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 003 – 6(2): 2020-2021 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Annual Report**

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2020-21 Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. I have one.

Tabled Document 004 – 6(2): 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Members, I am tabling the 2021-22 Annual Report from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 004 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations – Notice**

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2022, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023 – Notice****Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2022-2023 – Notice****Bill 03 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022 – Notice****Bill 04 – Liquor Tax Act – Notice**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 26, 2022, that the following Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2022-2023*; Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2022-2023*; and Bill 3, *Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2020-2021*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if I can continue, and Bill 4, *Liquor Tax Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. I recognize the Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 05 – An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Notice

Bill 06 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act – Notice

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 26, 2022, that the following Bill 5, *An Act to Amend Certain Acts Respecting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*, and Bill 6, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Bill 07 – Interim Language of Instruction Act – Notice

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 26, 2022, that Bill 7, *Interim Language of Instruction Act*, be read for the first time. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 16. I recognize the Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Hickes.

Motion 004 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

WHEREAS section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

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

AND WHEREAS Rule 83 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut* provides that the Legislative Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of at least three members;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments and revocations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Hudson Bay, that members be appointed to the standing committees of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Adam Arreak Lightstone, Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Alexander Sammurtok, Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, be appointed a Member of the Striking Committee;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Member for Rankin Inlet South, and Janet Brewster, Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, be appointed to the Management and Services Board;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointment of Adam Arreak Lightstone as a member of the Management and Services Board be revoked;

AND FURTHER I MOVE that the appointments of Craig Simailak as a member of the Striking Committee, a member of the Management and Services Board, a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, a member of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, a member of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development, and an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There are no items in the

committee. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There is no report. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 26:

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Responses to Petitions
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motions
17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Bill 7

20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
22. Report of the Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 26, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:40*

Appendix – May 25, 2022

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Janet Brewster, MLA Iqaluit-Sinaa

Asked of: Hon. Pamela Gross, Deputy Premier

Number: 112-6(1)

Date: March 17, 2022

Subject: Arctic Security and Sovereignty

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer Deputy Premier Gross gave during question period on March 17th, 2022. The member from Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster requested information on specific actions that are under consideration with respect to Arctic Security and Sovereignty.

As noted in the pan-territorial letter, Northerners stand with Ukrainians around the world and support the sanctions imposed on Russia. We recognize that Russia threatens the stability and cooperation in the Arctic regions and so we continue to work closely with our Northern partners and our federal government leaders to stay apprised on any developments on the ongoing responses to the conflict in Ukraine.

We continue to engage in discussions with Minister Anand to explore shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration as we stay well-attuned to the defense and security risks we face. We look forward to continued collaboration and dialogue to ensure decisions about the North are made by, and for, Northerners.

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Joe Savikataaq, MLA Arviat South

Asked of: Hon. Pamela Gross, Deputy Premier

Number: 113-6(1)

Date: March 17, 2022

Subject: Ministerial Handbook

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer Deputy Premier Gross gave during question period on March 17, 2022. The member from Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq requested information the on changes or updates to the Ministerial Procedures Manual since the new government was formed.

The last edition of the Ministerial Procedures Handbook was approved in July 2021 with a printed version available in November 2021. There has been no changes or amendments to the Handbook since the start of this government mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I will be providing a copy of the Ministerial Procedures Manual to all members of the Legislative Assembly within the coming days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Joeline Kaernerker, MLA Amittuq

Asked of: Hon. Pamela Gross, Deputy Premier

Number: 132-6(1) Housing Status of Cabinet Ministers

Date: March 18, 2022

Subject: Housing Status of Cabinet Ministers

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement an answer Deputy Premier Gross gave during question period on March 18, 2022. The Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerker requested information on the housing status of Cabinet Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, Ministers from outside of Iqaluit requiring accommodation in Iqaluit must seek accommodation on the open market based on Government of Nunavut (GN) standards for accommodation of families. Government staff accommodation in Iqaluit is not provided to Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, Ministers who continue to maintain a primary residence in a community other than Iqaluit during the period of their appointment to Cabinet, are eligible to claim reimbursement for costs incurred as a result of maintaining a residence in Iqaluit. These include the costs of rent, heat, electricity and utilities for the temporary accommodation that they occupy in Iqaluit, less the rent, if any, received from their primary residence. All leases within Iqaluit are between the Minister and the landlord.

Thank you Mr. Speaker