

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

*Minister of Environment; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation; Minister of
Energy*

Joelie Kaernerck
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Karen Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik
(Hudson Bay)

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

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

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(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*

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

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

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

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

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield
Inlet)

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

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Justice; Minister
responsible for Labour; Minister
responsible for the Qulliq Energy
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Hon. David Joanasie
(South Baffin)

*Government House Leader; Minister of
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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, October 31, 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 Joanase, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Hon. Margaret Nakashuk, Ms. Karen Nutarak, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 14:02*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Welcome, everyone. (interpretation) To my fellow Inuit who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, I welcome you all.

(interpretation ends) Apologies for the delay. I guess the goblins and sorcerers and witches were at it already.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 081 – 6(2): Arctic Security and Sovereignty Summit 2022

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. I say "good afternoon" to those in Iqaluit-Niaqunngu.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my participation in the Arctic Security and Sovereignty Summit that was held here in Iqaluit on October 3, 2022.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Senator Dennis Patterson hosted this one-day event in partnership with local and regional organizations, including Nunavut's Inuit Development Corporations Association and Nunasi Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, at this event we spoke about arctic sovereignty and how to strengthen and support healthy and resilient communities throughout the north.

Mr. Speaker, this event provided an opportunity to discuss the announcement of \$4.9 billion in funding for modernizing the North American Aerospace Defense Command. The defense command is a Canada-US venture which provides aerospace monitoring and

protection for both countries. This investment will be used to enhance surveillance in the north.

Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to speak to the delegates about the importance of strengthening sovereignty and security in Canada's Arctic. I stressed the importance to include and partner with Inuit and northerners when making decisions that impact our region. I also noted that the best way to strengthen sovereignty is to invest in the people and communities in the Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continued dialogue on arctic sovereignty and security, including working to address Nunavut's infrastructure, transportation and telecommunications gaps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 082 – 6(2): Safe Sleep Awareness Month

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe a sleeping baby is one of the most precious and adorable things in life. (interpretation ends) October is Baby's Safe Sleep Awareness Month in Nunavut, an important time to encourage all caregivers to create a safe sleep environment for their baby to lower the risk of sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS.

Sudden infant death syndrome is the sudden, unexplained death of an infant less than one year old in their sleep. The safest place for a baby to sleep or nap is in a crib, cradle, or bassinet that meets current Canadian safety regulations. Always place babies on their back on a firm mattress and provide a substance-free environment for sleep. The Department of Health is collaborating with prenatal health care workers on implementing a safe sleep program across Nunavut.

Health currently offers Nunavummiut maternal and child activities that focus on supporting healthy pregnancy, safe infant sleep, children's health, and parenting skills. We are continuously revising and developing resources based on Inuit societal values for maternal and child health programs.

There are other things we can do to help ensure our children have safe and positive starts to life, such as taking part in the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program. This is a community-based program offered to prenatal and recently postpartum Nunavummiut that aims to not only improve the health and well-being of pregnant people, but also support breastfeeding and nutrition for infants up to two years old.

Uqaqtitsijii, I encourage all caregivers to contact a nurse or a midwife in their community for more information on practising safe infant sleep. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 083 – 6(2): Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program Graduation

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to announce that Nellie Erkloo has graduated from the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program. Nellie Erkloo completed her one-year internship on June 7, 2022 and we recently celebrated her dedication and accomplishment.

Nellie is now the Director, Community Operations in the Qikiqtaaluk region. Prior to the internship Nellie served for many years within the territorial government, most recently as the manager of community economic development for the North Qikiqtaaluk.

This is the most recent Sivuliqtiksat intern that my department has supported in partnership with the Department of Human Resources. We continue to look to the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program to develop Inuit employees into Government of Nunavut leadership positions within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 084 – 6(2): 2022 Sport and Recreation Award Recipients

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the recipients of the 2022 Sport and Recreation Awards. These recipients have demonstrated their commitment to the sport and recreation sector. The Sport and Recreation Division awards were presented in the following six categories:

- Male Athlete of the Year: Prime Paniyuk (Coral Harbour)
- Female Athlete of the Year: Charlotte Siksik (Rankin Inlet)
- Coach of the Year: Tommy Grenier (Iqaluit)

- Administrator of the Year: Martine Dupont (Iqaluit)
- Team of the Year: U9 Rankin Rock
- Special Recognition Award for outstanding contribution to sport: Wanda Joy (Iqaluit), Jimmy Qamukaq (Igloolik), Noah Tiktak (Rankin Inlet), and John Taipana (Rankin Inlet)

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, sport award recipients were honoured at the 2021-22 Sport Awards Gala in Iqaluit on October 15 and I was pleased to be able to attend.

Additionally, the Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN) presented three awards recognizing outstanding accomplishments and contributions to community recreation. These awards were presented to:

- RPAN Youth Leader of the Year: Remie Ukpatiku (Baker Lake)
- Baffinland Iron Mines Recreation Leader of the Year: Ethan Kadlun (Kugluktuk) and Joanne Weedmark (Kinngait)
- Canadian North Volunteer of the Year: Makabe Nartok (Kugaaruk)

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I wish to acknowledge their accomplishments and congratulate all the recipients of the 2022 Sport and Recreation Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 085 – 6(2): Expanded College Programming for 2022-23

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and fellow colleagues in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to confirm that for the 2022-23 academic year, the college is offering programming for additional communities in Nunavut.

The two-year Social Service Worker Diploma program that is continuously offered at the Kitikmeot Campus in Cambridge Bay is also being delivered at the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit and in Arviat.

The pre-health program, a one-year certificate program, prepares students academically for health programs with the college or beyond. This program is being offered at the Nunatta Campus in Iqaluit and at the Kitikmeot campus in Cambridge Bay. The

Cambridge Bay delivery is being supported by funding from the Nunavut Implementation Panel.

Finally, thanks to third party funding from Canadian Heritage and the Nunavut Implementation Panel, the college is proud to confirm that the Nunavut Teacher Education Program has welcomed new students in Arctic Bay, Iqaluit, Kinngait, Pond Inlet, Sanirajak, and Whale Cove.

The college is proud to work within its team and third party funders to expand program deliveries across the territory, signifying the broad base support for the *Katujjiluta* mandate priority of reinvesting in education. We are especially proud of the opportunity to expand program offerings within communities beyond its campus locations. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 086 – 6(2): QEC Accepting Applications for IPP Program Technical Assessments

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation supports the development of renewable and alternative energy solutions in our territory. To ensure these capital-intensive projects do not have a negative impact on Nunavummiut financially, the corporation is working toward an Independent Power Producer Program that will allow proponents outside of the utility to generate electrical power from renewable energy systems and sell it directly to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The corporation has placed careful consideration of customers at the forefront of program development to minimize the program's financial impact on our residents, while the territory can benefit from environmentally friendly energy options.

Inuit organizations and municipalities have also been prioritized in this process and will be given the first opportunity to own and operate community scale installations. Since the Qulliq Energy Corporation began developing the public Independent Power Producer Policy in 2019, the corporation has been busy incorporating feedback from extensive stakeholder consultations. Now, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is considering recently received public input in the final stages of policy submission to cabinet in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that I recently granted conditional approval on an interim basis for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to begin technical evaluations of potential renewable energy projects that fall under the Independent Power Producer Program. This decision was made to ensure that Inuit-led renewable projects could continue to progress and to avoid any further project delays while the policy is being finalized. Connection impact assessments are a crucial step in

this process and are required to safely connect renewable energy projects without impacting the safety or reliability of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's local grids. For more information on how to apply for the connection impact assessment, please visit our website at www.qec.nu.ca.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation is committed to supplying Nunavut with safe, reliable and cost-effective energy. Integrating renewable energy systems in the territory's energy grid helps decrease Nunavut's dependency on diesel fuel, enabling the corporation to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy self-reliance. It is paramount that our sole electricity supplier carefully introduces renewables to our jurisdiction in a way that does not have negative impact on customers and residents. With the Independent Power Producer Policy's finalization and through extensive consultation with stakeholders, the public and expert professionals, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is aspiring to offer a program that protects Nunavummiut, while providing benefits to those who seek to bring more sustainable energy solutions to the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 087 – 6(2): Makimaniq Update

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that an evaluation of Makimaniq II is almost finalized. As you are aware, Makimaniq II is a shared approach between Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik that aims to reduce poverty among Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we know that to address the negative effects of poverty, collaboration and action from all levels of society is needed. We need to share a planned vision and work together to improve the living standards of Nunavummiut.

In June of this year, government and Nunavut Tunngavik hosted a roundtable of poverty reduction in Iqaluit. The weeklong meeting rekindled the fire of collaboration. We engaged with communities, researchers, and not-for-profit partners to identify shared issues and concerns. We evaluated what is working well and where we need more coordinated effort.

The evaluation process identified a need to strengthen the common agenda and have more engagements targeted at our regions and communities. It also identified the need to create a shared measurement system to track progress under the Makimaniq framework. Another recommendation involved creating working groups with stakeholders from all members of the roundtable to ensure activities are coordinated and supported. Finally, a more comprehensive communications strategy with community-level focus is needed to

ensure Nunavummiut are well informed and given opportunities to participate in and contribute to Makimaniq.

Mr. Speaker, Makimaniq III is now in development with a completion date set for next year. I encourage all our stakeholders and all interested Nunavummiut to share their thoughts and ideas on how we can reduce the negative effects of poverty while creating a stronger tomorrow. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerik. No? My apologies. Members' Statements. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 115 – 6(2): Bullying in Schools

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about problems that happen in the schools. There is misbehaviour and hurting of fellow people that occurs in all the schools and that affects our lifetime. I think, we need to do more about bullying because it ends up with suicide sometimes. So, the government needs to do more about bullying in the schools. Anything that has to do with bullying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 116 – 6(2): Happy and Safe Halloween

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say that the people of Pond Inlet tonight at Halloween trick-or-treating. I hope that everything runs well and you are all safe and if there are vehicles on the road, make sure you look before you drive and look before you cross the street and everybody be happy and go to the centre tonight.

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

Member's Statement 117 – 6(2): Suicide Prevention

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Arviat, I say "good day" to you, even with the obstacles. Now, I empathize with the people of Arviat, especially the family who suffered the loss of a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, I first spoke about this matter when we first sat in this House, where I spoke about the impacts of suicide, and for about a year suicide was the hot topic, but this so-

called pandemic became the sole focus, although suicide was going to be the main issue to be resolved and Nunavummiut are still awaiting this initiative.

Now, we have just lost someone to suicide in Arviat yesterday. I know for a fact ever since I spoke about this taboo, this was not the only suicide and many more have occurred. This requires the utmost emphasis on our part and to attempt to resolve the instigating factors that result in people killing themselves as we need to curtail them. There are way too many suicides now.

This happened while the government conducted ongoing discussions with no resolutions and facing the issues. I feel for the people of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 118 – 6(2): Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit Community Visits

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also say “good day” to Nunavummiut.

I rise today to express my appreciation to the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit for its visit back in May and June of this year to my constituency communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to receive positive feedback from my constituents who took part in the Inuit language proficiency testing conducted by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I often think of our unilingual elders who may experience difficulties communicating when accessing government services. I appreciate the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit for its role in assessing the language proficiency of the government's employees.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my constituents who work for the Government of Nunavut and who are proficient in the Inuit language to fill out an application form. Applicants who demonstrate proficiency will be eligible for an annual allowance.

(interpretation ends) I encourage the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit to visit my constituency again in the near future and to ensure that it provides good notice in advance if there will be a next visit.

Mr. Speaker, I will have follow-up questions for the appropriate minister (interpretation) at the appropriate time later today. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Member's Statement 119 – 6(2): Safe and Happy Halloween

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I proceed with my member's statement, I would like to also congratulate the winners and nominated individuals for the Sport and Recreation Award that was held here in Iqaluit last week. I did read about it in the newspaper. Contrary to past occurrences, as far as I'm concerned, to my knowledge, none of the Iqaluit MLAs received an invitation.

Mr. Speaker, I received some very alarming news today. Mr. Speaker, I'm under great concern of the amount of ghosts and goblins that are going to be invading all the communities across the territory this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very assured that a number of the DC and Marvel groups will be making sure that they're also out there helping protecting all the princes and fairies and animals that are going to be out trick-or-treating this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence in those super heroes to make sure that we have a very safe and very productive, hopefully big bags of candy that all of our kids get, and please remember to brush your teeth tonight and for all those, like one member stated, all those drivers and people that are out and about this evening, just a little extra caution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**Return to Oral Question 182 – 6(2): Office of the Fire Marshal**

Hon. David Joanasie: Number, or return to oral? (interpretation) My apologies, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have a return to oral question No. 182 – 6(2), asked by the Member for Aivilik. I have provided a copy to the Clerk for distribution to members and for recording into *Hansard*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and honoured to introduce my family to the House and to the group.

*See Appendix for full text of Return to Oral Question 182 – 6(2).

With that, Mr. Speaker, not only are they my family; they are also my constituents. Without further ado, please meet the matriarch of the family, my lovely wife, Margaret Qavvik.

>> *Applause*

On the far left is our second daughter, Madalie Inuktaluk.

>> *Applause*

Our youngest son, Daniel Inuktaluk.

>> *Applause*

Next to her mom, our youngest daughter, Rosalinda Inuktaluk...

>> *Applause*

...and Stella Inuktaluk.

>> *Applause*

Last but not least, Mr. Speaker, on the far corner over there is our eldest daughter, Jacquinita Inuktatluk.

>> *Applause*

She will be paging for the duration of our fall sitting. Mr. Speaker, in 2005 I was also a page to this Legislative Assembly, and I am thankful and honoured for the Paatsaali High School and the Legislative Assembly for the opportunity that my daughter has been given.

Please welcome my family to their House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your House, the Legislative Assembly. Welcome. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 186 – 6(2): Reverse Osmosis and Health Monitoring

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was very quick.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, for more than half a decade, households in the community of Sanikiluaq have had to use water from reverse osmosis units for drinking, cooking, preparing baby formula, and brushing their teeth.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate whether his department has had any role in monitoring the possible negative health effects in Sanikiluaq residents from using reverse osmosis water on a long-term basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for asking that question on this subject. The topic of potable, safe drinking water is of utmost importance and is a very significant service that provides residents with healthy bodies and lifestyles. In looking at it from that perspective, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health's role when it comes to water supplies is one of regulator and so as a regulatory authority, we do monitor issues around water issues in various communities.

The member's question is regarding Sanikiluaq, specifically the reverse osmosis water. I'm unable to provide any details with regard to the reverse osmosis water in particular, but as regulator, when water supplies do not meet standards that are set for drinking water, the Department of Health does issue a notice to the public, such as boil water advisory or in the case of Iqaluit, it was a "do not consume" advisory, a different type. That's our role in terms of water supplies in across Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original reason for installing reverse osmosis filters in Sanikiluaq homes and buildings was to address the high sodium content in the water. Salty, brackish water is not pleasant to drink. The reverse osmosis units provided a drinkable solution.

While reducing unhealthy levels of minerals and contaminants from the water, reverse osmosis systems can also reduce levels of such healthy minerals as magnesium, potassium, and calcium. One of my constituents has indicated that their family members suffer from related mineral deficiencies.

Can the minister indicate what kinds of health programs can be offered to Sanikiluaq residents to assist them in addressing such issues as mineral deficiency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) When it comes to water sampling, just to add to my earlier response, I should mention that water samples are collected before they're delivered into a household. On a community that's on trucked water, the water samples which are analyzed or collected from the truck or either at the plant, there might be different steps along the sampling.

If I understand the member's question, there may be issues around the water that's coming out of the tap in the community of Sanikiluaq. I'm not aware of any mineral deficiency issues that have been flagged, but I can certainly check with my officials to see whether that has been identified as a concern at the local health centre level in Sanikiluaq, and if there is a trend or issues that are being created around the reverse osmosis units, we can certainly look to see if that can be rectified. That's all I can say at this point. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A concern has been raised that the long-term consumption of reverse osmosis water can be detrimental to our health.

I have been given to understand that there are different types of reverse osmosis units as well as additional components that can improve the quality of our water.

Will the minister commit to working with his counterparts in Community and Government Services as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that Sanikiluaq homes and buildings have the best and healthiest reverse osmosis units so that they can continue to consume the water with no fear for their health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 187 – 6(2): Independent Power Producer Program

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of QEC on his minister's statement.

Mr. Speaker, on the second page, in the second paragraph, it says, "In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that I have recently granted conditional approval for the interim basis for QEC to begin technical evaluations of potential renewable energy

project that fall under the Independent Power Purchase Program. This decision was made to ensure that Inuit-led renewable projects could continue program and to avoid any further project delays while policy can finalize.”

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Hamlet of Arviat has been working for over a year now, almost two years and they have been waiting for the QEC to come up with their Independent Power Purchase Program to be finalized so that they can sign up. There are millions of dollars that are at stake here.

The Hamlet of Arviat has millions of dollars that have been preapproved by the federal government and I am just wondering why this exemption only applies to Inuit organizations and not municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question and his continued advocacy for his constituency. This interim policy actually does include municipalities; it is not only Inuit organizations. Municipalities can apply to this interim policy. They qualify for this interim policy as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then the minister should have put it in his minister’s statement, so that all the municipalities would know that they are also exempt.

It is one thing to have something hidden that no one really knows about and it another thing to have a minister’s statement and let all Nunavummiut know what it is.

Mr. Speaker, going back to the first page of the same minister’s statement, the Qulliq Energy Corporation supports the development of renewable, alternative energy solutions in our territory. To ensure these capital-intensive projects don’t have a negative impact on Nunavummiut financially, the corporation is working towards the independent power purchase producer.

Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, can the minister correct me that in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act*, if they are buying renewable energy that they cannot pay more than it would cost them to produce the energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the members’ statement earlier where he mentions municipalities should have been included in the statement. It is included in the statement, actually. It’s on the first page, the very bottom of the paragraph, bottom page last paragraph, Inuit organizations and municipalities have been prioritized, so they qualify.

As for protecting constituents and consumers with the possible negative financial impacts, this policy is making sure that it does not increase, end up being an increase of power rates for Nunavummiut. That is why we are being very careful here so, that it doesn't negatively impact constituents. We are being very careful. That is what I can say for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the minister still didn't answer my question. My question was that I believe that in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* it states in there, if they are going to buy renewable energy from any outside source that they cannot pay for more than what it cost them to produce that power in that community or in the regional pricing that is done. I just want to confirm that, is that already in there and if it is it makes the moot point of making sure that the Independent Power Purchase Agreement, stating it twice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way the policy is set up right now is at the avoided cost of diesel. We're trying to make sure we don't increase the cost of power rates to Nunavummiut. As the member said before in previous times, we already pay a lot for other consumables and whatnot, so we're trying to be very careful here. Right now it's set up at the avoided cost of diesel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 188 – 6(2): Inuit Language Incentive Policy

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the (interpretation ends) Minister of Human Resources (interpretation) and they concern the issue of the government's Inuktitut Language Incentive Policy.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my member's statement earlier today, I am mindful of Nunavut's unilingual elders who experience communication difficulties when accessing government services.

(interpretation ends) With that being said, first I appreciate the language incentive policy, which encourages Government of Nunavut employees to use and increase their Inuktitut language skills in the workplace.

Can the minister confirm how many Government of Nunavut employees currently receive the Inuit Language Incentive payment and indicate how many employees are at each level? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. I don't have a breakdown of the figures, but those who have requested assessment total 1,515. That figure is as of September 13 and there have been 905 assessments completed and 610 still need assessment. As of September 30, 758 employees of government received bonuses for being able to speak Inuktitut. There are three categories on language proficiency, reading and writing being one of them. I don't have the actual figures, but I'll be able to get back to her if she requests it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned in my member's statement today, the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit recently visited the communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq in my constituency of Uqqummiut earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, during the COVID-19 pandemic, community travel was restricted. There were concerns about the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit not being able to visit communities to conduct language proficiency assessments of the government's employees.

Now that travel restrictions have ended, can the minister indicate how often the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will be travelling to the smaller communities to conduct these important assessments? As you mentioned, there are 610 (interpretation) that have not been assessed. That's what you mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that follow-up question. Based on my understanding of the briefing, these tests are conducted by the Department of CLEY.

With respect to the people who have requested testing, and they want to find out their results, how to say it properly... . When they are tested for their proficiency level, the workers can receive their updated salary level which can be (interpretation ends) backdated (interpretation) to the testing date. This is put back into the date of their language proficiency test and this date is used to backdate their wage increase.

In order for you to understand this fully, although I kind of forget the other part of your earlier question, nonetheless, there are (interpretation ends) level 1 (interpretation) as we discussed earlier about the different categories of proficiency both written and oral, such as (interpretation ends) level 1 as of September 3, 56 were on level 1; (interpretation) level 2 had 493 employees, and level 3 had 209 listed in that category. Those are the figures.

Perhaps I didn't answer your question, but you can ask me further on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your response partially covered my earlier questions indeed, however, this aspect, specifically related to workers situated in the smaller non-decentralized communities require a tester to visit them, and I wonder if this too is part of the planned approach.

Now, the figures you mentioned, specifically the written ones like 56 with minimal proficiency, with 493 able to partially read and write, and 209 with full proficiency in both oral and written scales, and we are aware of the different levels since they are referred in this report. Now, in looking at the numbers, it shows we need more linguistic training obviously. It shows we need to double down on teaching the language skills here.

Due to that I want to move to this area here, (interpretation ends) can the minister clarify which entity is responsible for communicating when the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit is planning to visit the community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that question for further clarification. Let me qualify that further, by stating the number of communities that requested testing in language proficiency has increased, as they also follow the number of tests required in the communities, and that becomes the foundation for preparing a visit and planning the tests.

However, regarding our Department of Human Resources, there are specific policies and guidelines for testing as well as procedures listed in the regulations such as (interpretation ends) guidelines and procedures (interpretation) which must be sent out as notices. This testing is done by the Department of CLEY, while the tests determine their proficiency in written and oral proficiency in both Roman Orthography and Syllabics, such as regional variations we have in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtaaluk. These too are broken into regional testing procedures. That's the situation to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 189 – 6(2): Kugluktuk Power Plant

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the people of Kugluktuk, Nunavummiut, and my fellow MLAs, welcome.

My question is for the Minister responsible for the (interpretation ends) Qulliq Energy Corporation, (interpretation) and they concern 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.

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

In November 2021 (interpretation ends) the Qulliq Energy Corporation (interpretation) issued a request for tenders for the new power plant. The tender was subsequently cancelled. (interpretation ends) The Qulliq Energy Corporation (interpretation) issued a new request for tenders in July 2022. The closing date was recently extended to October 3, 2022.

As of today, what is the status of the tender process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. He's correct that it's a very old power plant now. It was actually built in 1968 and it's one of the oldest power plants in Nunavut. He's correct that there was a new tender out and it was closed. Currently they are in the tender evaluation process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The Qulliq Energy Corporation's (interpretation) current corporate plan indicates that construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant was supposed to have started during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

During our recent spring sitting, I asked the minister to clarify the current budget and timeline for the construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant. At that time he did not have the information. Does the minister have that information today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The total budget for the power plant construction in Kugluktuk on May 24 was \$61,470,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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.

It is important that the Municipal Council of Kugluktuk be kept informed about the progress of Kugluktuk's new power plant. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the municipal council is provided with regular updates by (interpretation ends) the Qulliq Energy Corporation (interpretation) about the status of the new power plant? (interpretation ends) *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation always strives to keep the local hamlets updated right from the start before construction begins and when planning starts. Yes, I can commit to keeping the Hamlet of Kugluktuk with updates and also with the member as well to keep him updated at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 190 – 6(2): Recruitment and Retention

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, it has come to a lot of our attention that there has been a lot of concern with recruitment and retention across the civil service of the Government of Nunavut and that literally there have been hundreds of departures of civil servants since April of this year.

When I look at the website, I see approximately 100 competitions open at the moment, but the first question I would like to start off with is the staffing status of the Department of Human Resources itself. Mr. Speaker, if the minister could update us on the staffing levels of the Department of Human Resources, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. If I recall correctly and I will have to confirm, but it was at 51 percent the last time I checked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that response from the minister. It's very concerning when we're looking at the department that's entailed with the responsibility to fill our civil service across the board, especially in today's environment

where it's very competitive and there are a number of different concerns. I look forward to more progress in that area.

Mr. Speaker, back in the May-June sitting, I had asked some questions to the minister as well as the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation on the number of staff units that are available as staff housing is obviously a major factor in recruitment and retention. At that time, on June 2, I was informed by the Minister of Human Resources that there were 61 units that were in need of repair to make them basically into liveable conditions, Mr. Speaker.

At that same time I had asked some questions to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation on when those units would be back into inventory. At that time the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation had stated within 15 to 90 days that those units would be back in usable inventory. We're now nearing 150 days since that commitment was made in this House. I would like to follow up with the Minister of Human Resources of how many of those 61 units have been brought back into useful inventory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. You are absolutely truthful in your assessment of our concerns regarding the retention of employees as we face a shortage in many departments, as it has an impact on our Human Resources department, and we have attempted to brainstorm in recruiting more employees to work within the GN workforce, as many experience shortfalls in their staff levels.

Now, I previously mentioned this issue just last week about staff housing being utilized, and how we can try to have more units housing our government employees, and we are trying to resolve this as an ongoing matter. Ever since I was assigned this portfolio, although I am unable to recite a precise number, however, the number of Inuit employees who are trying to get government staff housing were quite large.

These were existing government employees, and in the month of October, there were 16 Inuit staff who received government units in Nunavut and further, I was briefed today that 13 more Inuit workers received housing units from our government units.

This was across all of Nunavut, as it outlines workers in Iqaluit, Igloolik, and Kinngait and wherever else we maintain government staff units that workers now inhabit. We have continued to monitor the staff housing vacancy rates as they are under-utilized and how we can increase the usage therein. Further, when I was a regular MLA, I was always mentioning the fact that this government had more empty government housing units that could be used by other residents as they sat empty.

To date, these are what we have undertaken towards that. I am simply mentioning them here, as there are also a number of empty units in Iqaluit that I will have to get more background information before I can respond, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to that information from the minister and maybe later this week, I will follow that up with the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other issues that have come to light in previous months is the competitiveness of our salaries of our remuneration. I always struggle with that word.

Mr. Speaker, when we look at the past of Nunavut and even back into the Northwest Territory days, not everyone understands the adventure of moving to the arctic for employment purposes and sometimes the money is what draws people here initially. And, then they fall in love with this great territory and remain here for decades, in a lot of cases.

Mr. Speaker, recently as of February 14 of 2022, the City of Iqaluit made a motion and was passed in a city council meeting to approve market adjustments to needed professions of up to 20 percent. And, I know that this topic has come up in the House before and I know accommodations have been made in the past.

My question is when we look at the competitiveness of certain professions across country that are needed here in Nunavut and we are not even competitive with southern Canada, there is not a lot of incentive other than for that adventure or for life experience and exposure to come to Nunavut. People know that it can be a challenging environment living in remote communities and it's not for everyone. But, the more people we attract to and recruit, the more able and we'll be able to retain those people.

My question there is not just market adjustments that I think can be looked at on a broader basis. What other means are being explored to make sure that we are competitive at the national and international stage for recruitment for civil servants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. I do agree that the market adjustments and the salary, I know that is something that we are looking into, especially after having to have signed the NEU agreement, from the very beginning we have stated we need to continue looking at the options.

As I mentioned, now I am stating how we should continue making Government of Nunavut employer of choice. We do have the best benefits. To say on that part but also it

wouldn't have to be just Human Resources that can decide upon this, it has to be a collective agreement with the Department of Human Resources as well as the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and brought forward to cabinet for further review or consideration in that part, but that is not something we're not stopping on, we are looking into what options we have and we'll have better input on that regarding the policy which would be development in the fall. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 191 – 6(2): Activities of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to serve the people of Iqaluit-Sinaa in this House, one of the responsibilities that I had to give up was my former position as the Nunavut workers representative on the Governance Council of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. I'm always happy to take a moment to pay tribute to the work of the Commission and to their very hard-working staff.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission has been undertaking consultations over the past two years major and significant changes to the current pension system for workplace injuries and illnesses.

Information published by the commission confirms that legislation to give effect to these proposed changes will need to be introduced in both our Legislative Assembly as well as the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Can the minister confirm the status of this initiative and can she indicate when she expects to be introducing a bill to this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. (interpretation ends) If I'm correct, are you asking about the new punch-in system? (interpretation) I would like to get that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is asking for more clarification. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, I'm asking about the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's work to re-evaluate and reset rates as it is under their purview. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the clarification about that particular review, and that this report was slated for tabling during this fall session, so I will have to get briefed on this matter in order to return with an actual date of when this report will be submitted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former member of the Governance Council of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, I have an understanding of the complexities involved in administering the worker' compensation system in two jurisdictions.

I can also attest from experience that the governance challenges are not insignificant when you factor in council representation from two different jurisdictions, two ministers, and two legislatures.

Can the minister indicate how often there are meetings between the minister and the Northwest Territories counterpart to hold in-depth discussions concerning issues related to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. Your assertion is correct as they do indeed deal with both territorial issues, in NWT and Nunavut, and further, there are employees working out of offices here in Iqaluit who were hired to work with them, nonetheless, they only meet quarterly to deal with the issues collaboratively on the overlapping regions and issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, I know that there's a great deal of work to be done to help these jurisdictions work better together and more in concert so that we're pacing together and one not following the other.

In the minister's statement of last Thursday, the minister spoke about the importance of building psychologically safe workplaces. Mr. Speaker, coming from a trauma-informed background, everybody knows that I applaud work in this area and support it.

In the minister's statement, reference was made to "implementing the National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the extent to which the *Workers' Compensation Act* will need to be amended to reflect developments in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that follow-up question. They deal with government-wide issues which we collaboratively work on, and the matter you mentioned specifically is included in this area.

Now, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission tries to showcase and publicize the need for worker safety and to increase visibility as we need to support them in workers' safety, as we are required to publicize them.

Now, what is a barrier that we sometimes run into, is that some workplaces lack a safety program officer or cases where their workers are overstressed and face mental challenges in trying to appease their managers, so in cases such as that, we must collaborate with other departments that overlap where government has the mandate.

Further, the employees of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission end of dealing with these workplaces in collaboration with different governments outside the purview of the Government of Nunavut when conducting a thorough assessment of worker safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 192 – 6(2): Ministerial Letters of Expectation

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and are regarding the economic and development agencies, the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the letters of expectation that the minister recently wrote to the chairs of the board of directors of both of the agencies, the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, were tabled in this House in June of this year, and I look forward to the responses being tabled before the end of our current sitting.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of merging the two territorial corporations into a single entity has been raised on a number of occasions. I was very interested to note that the minister's most recent letter of expectation indicated that:

"I expect the Nunavut Development Corporation to work with Economic Development and Transportation officials to increase integration with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask: for the record, what is the minister's position on merging the two corporations into a single entity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That work or the vision of merging is not new and something that we have been looking into and trying to work within the two organizations. As part of this review, we have learned quickly that they are two separate entities that are working for the betterment of Nunavummiut and that's something that's an ongoing work that's taking place. I work very closely with the two entities to see how we can best serve Nunavut through each of our agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both of the minister's letters of expectation contained a number of specific goals that I found intriguing.

For example, the Letter of Expectation to the Nunavut Development Corporation indicated that it has been directed to work on the "potential for a new subsidiary in either the housing or health service delivery sectors."

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall from the previous Assembly, he was a sponsor of Nunavut's territorial legislation to implement the legalization of cannabis, which has occurred across the country.

Mr. Speaker, one of the primary objectives of this initiative was to fight the illegal trafficking of drugs by providing for the safe and regulated sale of cannabis products to adult consumers.

Mr. Speaker, the government has made it clear that it does not intend to get into the business of selling cannabis directly to Nunavut consumers, which means that we need entrepreneurs to provide this service in the communities.

I would like to ask: for the record, can the minister confirm what direction he has given to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation through his annual letter of expectation in respect to providing supports to entrepreneurs who wish to provide this service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as part of setting up a cannabis store throughout the territory, the Minister responsible for Finance or the liquor board, his department has been engaging the communities and trying to see if there is any interest. Through that work for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, we have received in 2020-21 one application related to wanting to start up a cannabis store. That's what we

have received so far and for the Nunavut Development Corporation, we have not received any applications or proposals related to that. As the member indicated, we are looking for entrepreneurs to set up these stores. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister providing that response and the number of applicants that the two corporations have received.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government had legalized cannabis to accomplish three objectives: first, keeping profits out of the pockets of criminals and the black market; second, to protect public health by regulating the product and keeping a harmful substance such as fentanyl out of cannabis; and lastly and most importantly, keeping cannabis out of the hands of youth.

Mr. Speaker, as we only have one cannabis retail outlet in Nunavut, we are currently failing to meet these three objectives.

Mr. Speaker, there is a correlation between cannabis-induced psychosis and early onset schizophrenia. Mr. Speaker, there is a prevalence of cannabis consumption among our youth and I believe that it is important that we do more to ensure that the harmful impacts that cannabis has on a developing brain are publicly announced, education and outreach is made, but to create a legal market to ensure that youth do not have easy access to cannabis.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for my last question: will the minister commit to working with the NDC, or the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to assist more communities with opening up legal access to cannabis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The role of whether a store can be opened or not lies with our Nunavut Liquor Commission and through their work and through that. They have been doing a public advertisement and they have been asking for entrepreneurs to come and learn how to open up a store. All that is available and if there are any entrepreneurs that would like to open those, there are various loans that can be offered and that would be through the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation or through CanNor for that matter. For any of our entrepreneurs, we are willing to assist in any kind of legal activities that can be opened in Nunavut, not just cannabis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 193 – 6(2): Lack of Space in Health Centre

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and the people of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, my questions will be for the Minister of Health.

During the fall, just last week when we commenced our sitting, our colleague representing the Uqummiut riding queried the Minister of Health about local community services they could focus on delivering instead.

However, some communities have older health centres that already lack office spaces, and how can they increase the workload when they already face space shortages? I would like to understand how they will address that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. Now, in each community our assets and buildings are all quite disparate, with some and I will use an example here of Kinngait or Sanikiluaq, their health centres are much newer with their overall space in line or compatible with the community population size, which includes office spaces that are specifically designed for the management requirements.

However, some communities and perhaps the best example would be Qikiqtarjuaq, as some communities have inadequate spaces to house the myriad requirements which cannot meet the growing population size of their communities.

So, in relation to Naujaat, to cite the situation there, when we are apprised of the space challenges faced by the health care workers of specific communities, this is forwarded to the Department of CG&S, as we collaborate on the overall design and space constraints and whether administrative offices can be found outside of the health centres.

Sometimes offices are readily available, and in working with other departments, we will draft up a memorandum or agreement to utilize the office spaces locally, nonetheless, when dealing with capital project funding, this can sometimes create its own barrier which is problematic and unfortunate in my estimation as we try to resolve the local challenges.

In those cases, we must sometimes revert to capital planning cycles to incorporate the plans through the Department of Health and place them in coming annual capital plans, but we will diligently work hard to accomplish that. When we are informed about space inadequacies, we try to ensure these challenges are resolved quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The lack of space at the Coral Harbour Health Centre is a big concern. Due to the cramped situation, there is a serious lack of privacy when clients are being seen by health care staff.

Can the minister clearly explain how his department takes such issues as privacy, safety, comfort, and health care standards into consideration when determining how health services are delivered at community health centres? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. (interpretation ends) As I mentioned, we do know that in some communities, our facilities are not meeting the communities' needs and it's really something that bothers me deeply as minister. We know that the patients coming in the door are entering a facility that is, in some cases, inadequate and for our staff, it also has negative effects on our staff. If you imagine that you're a health professional and it's your first time coming to a community and you go to a health facility that is inadequate, it sends not a great message to our staff as well.

There are clear benefits to investments in health infrastructure. There are benefits when it comes to mental health. There are benefits when it comes to communicable diseases. There are benefits when it comes to staffing and providing more support services in the community. That's precisely the message I was delivering last week in Ottawa to several of my federal counterparts. We do have a huge need for additional health infrastructure in the territory. Currently Coral Harbour is sitting seventh on the priority listing for health centre replacements. I would hope to see that replacement schedule moved quicker, of course, as health minister and it's something I'll continue to push for. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister. I further encourage you to deal forthwith on the updating of our antiquated health care centres as our communities also deserve newer facilities for their residents. I also alluded to the challenges faced currently as they are observable. (interpretation ends) They don't feel safe and there's lack of privacy in that room.

(interpretation) These are the reasons why I wish to further encourage the minister to put Coral Harbour at a higher priority level. We don't have anything new in our community. Everything is quite dilapidated. Now, there is a new five-plex unit and that's the only new thing in the community that we have seen for a long time, which is why I would like the health centre placed higher in the priority ranking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. (interpretation ends) The health centre in Coral Harbour, based on the information that I have in front of me, it's clearly not the right size for the size of the community and it's something that the Department of Health will continue to advocate for.

Specifically when we look at infrastructure, the Department of Health, only in one case that I know of, that's the Nunavut Recovery Centre, we are able to access some sort of federal cost sharing when it comes to investments in health infrastructure. If we look at health centres, right now there is no funding pot.

Where we have other types of infrastructure that can be built in Nunavut with federal-territorial cost sharing, in the past there have been federal pots for health infrastructure and it's something that I would very much like to see be reborn because we have huge needs for health infrastructure in Nunavut and it's having real impacts on the people in this territory.

That's the message I will continue to push at my federal counterparts' offices whenever I have the opportunity and I will continue to spread that message in Vancouver when we meet for a health ministers' meeting next week. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 194 – 6(2): Chesterfield Inlet School Request

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good day to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet, Nunavummiut, and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the minister for her letter in response to questions I raised in this House on October 26. I tabled her letter because I wish to follow up on its contents.

For the record, I was not the one to request an additional academic teacher for Chesterfield Inlet's Victor Sammurtok School. However, I wholeheartedly support this request and did contact the minister about it.

Can the minister clarify whether she has responded directly to David Kattegatsiak, Chairperson of the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority, with respect to his letter requesting an extra academic-level English teacher for the Victor Sammurtok School? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question in regard to a letter received from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority. The letter that was received was from our colleague, submitted from the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority. Last week I had replied to our colleague about the letter and we are going to reply to the district education authority. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In her letter to me, the minister states, “If approved by the legislature in the winter sitting of 2022-2023 Chesterfield Inlet can expect one additional Nunavut Teachers Association position for school year 2023-2024.”

Can the minister clarify whether it is her intention to have Members of this Legislative Assembly approve the specific addition of one teaching position at the Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet? If so, I can confirm now that I will be voting a big “yes.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. In regard to a new teacher for the school in Chesterfield Inlet, it is based on the new headcount. As part of the revisions to the Department of Education’s staffing formula, next year the Victor Sammurtok School will be receiving one additional educator. This can be allocated as the district education authority sees fit, including an English teacher. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the minister correctly, during the winter sitting, members will be asked to approve operational funding for the Department of Education to implement a revised staffing formula that will increase the number of teaching positions allocated to schools across Nunavut.

If the related budget in the Department of Education’s proposed 2023-24 main estimates is approved by the Legislative Assembly, will the minister commit to ensuring that an additional academic English teaching position will be allocated to the Victor Sammurtok School as requested by the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. *Quana* to the member for the question. Every year the student-educator ratio is shared with the district education authorities so that they

can look to hire additional teachers. As stated in my last comment, next year when this plan is being rolled out, the Victor Sammurtok School will receive one extra teaching position and the district education authority has the opportunity to hire the additional teacher that they're looking for.

Mr. Speaker, just to give some context, the Victor Sammurtok School currently receives funding to hire ten educators. The enrolment at the Victor Sammurtok School is 107.5 students. This means the student-educator ratio at the school is 10.75, meaning there are 10.75 students for every one educator. This ratio does not include other school staff, such as student support assistants. The average student-educator ratio for the territory is currently 12.13, so the Victor Sammurtok School actually has a better average than the student-educator ratios. Next year when an additional educator is added to the school, it will bring the student-educator ratio at the Victor Sammurtok School down to 9.77.

I look forward to the district education authority working to hire the new teacher that they're looking for in the next academic year when this funding rolls out from the Department of Education to the district education authorities. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 195 – 6(2): Power Plant Replacement for Sanirajak

Mr. Kaernerck: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good day to the people of Amittuq. I hope you enjoy your Halloween.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation in regard to these power plants.

As the minister is aware, just last week, Sanirajak was put into a state of emergency due to their power outages due to feeder 1.

My question would be right from the annual report from 2020-21 on page 18, the ages of the power plant, it says that the Amittuq is on the orange, so it's 40 plus years old. I guess it's older than me, I would say.

>>*Laughter*

My question would be: how does the Qulliq Energy Corporation prioritize when it comes to establishing these new power plants as there are several projects in Nunavut? I would like to think that Igloolik is one of those communities that will be getting a new power plant and I thank you. Where does Sanirajak stand when it comes to getting a new power plant or getting an actual new power plant? Where does Sanirajak stand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Yes, the age of the power plant in Sanirajak is getting up there in age. It's a bit older than me, I think, actually, so it's getting up there.

With prioritizing power plants in Nunavut for replacement, there are a few different variables that come into play, or factors, I should say: safety and reliability of the plants, the age; structure reliability of the generator sets. Many factors go into it. Currently, going by memory, I believe Sanirajak is fourth or fifth in line for a new power plant replacement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the minister on that information. I believe it's time that Sanirajak gets a new power plant because it's right in the centre. As you have mentioned, I would like to thank the Minister of the QEC and the Minister of CGS for visiting my constituents of Sanirajak at the end of this summer, so I thank you again. I should have mentioned that first.

In saying that, now when it comes to these, let's say, small modular reactors, as I can see, there were like five; correct me if I'm wrong, minister, there were five that were listed for 2020-21. Is the QEC actually thinking that since Sanirajak has been put into a state of emergency the second time, not this year but on these previous terms I have, how will the Qulliq Energy Corporation be at least looking into these small modular projects?

As the minister stated, Sanirajak is in the fourth or fifth. Is the QEC at least considering maybe putting a study into these small modular projects since Sanirajak is listed on the fourth? Could I get an answer from the minister if it's considered to have maybe a feasibility study for a small modular project, or where does the QEC stand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The subject of small modular reactors has been gaining traction right across the country, pretty much in every jurisdiction. Currently, the Qulliq Energy Corporation is collaborating with the Government of Canada on the possibility of small modular reactors as an alternative form of energy. At this stage, we are now just gathering information. It is a possibility in the future though. Right now, we are just gathering information on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kaerner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister on that information. Still on this annual report, I guess my third and final question would be: as Sanirajak is listed for it, can I get the minister's assurance that this will actually jump ahead due to the infrastructure being the oldest, pretty much oldest in Nunavut? Can I get the minister's assurance that they will be no cancellation when it comes to this capital

infrastructure in Sanirajak? As that stands forward can I get the assurance from the minister that it will be still on the board or at least jump ahead due to it's needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his continued advocacy. At this time I cannot give assurances of Sanirajak to be jumped ahead. There are different criteria to follow with power plant replacement. We will review each community that requires a power plant replacement, but currently we're going to the same schedule as of right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 196 – 6(2): COVID-19 Cases in Nunavut

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health.

Today with respect to COVID-19, it is still spreading around the world. We still have cases in Nunavut and increasing. My question is: are those who are hospitalized increasing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the question by the MLA with regard to COVID. My understanding is those that are being hospitalized whether they have increased or not, I haven't heard, but Dr. Patterson did say that we should expect perhaps an increase in cases in the wave of people getting COVID. This is something that we have to be mindful of.

We have of course the regular flu, cold flu and others. And, usually they increase. People having to go the hospital and usually when they begin at the same time. Those who are working in the hospital, nurses and staff have to go through a lot of difficulty at work.

Similarly with Nunavut residents so, hopefully Nunavummiut are well vaccinated. If concerns are made and the COVID vaccine I should say have a lot of benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, how many cases were found in each community? Was the information made available? Do you know at this time how many COVID cases have been numbered in each community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we're not following up with numbers. Our focus had to change last year. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, across Canada, jurisdictions have redirected efforts to mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on the health care system, redirected efforts towards monitoring and being ready for new variants and building towards a new normal around COVID.

When we moved out of the public health emergency, the approach to COVID-19 changed and so there are still tools that are available for Nunavummiut to protect themselves, things like masking. Masking works, not just for COVID, masking works for the flu, it works for RSV.

We have the COVID hotline is still running and is still available to provide advice to Nunavummiut.

We have an antiviral drug call Paxlovid and individuals who are at risk from COVID infection can be prescribed Paxlovid.

There are rapid tests still available across Nunavut and the chief public health officer still has a recommendation in place that individuals isolate when they do feel ill.

We do have resources available and we really encourage Nunavummiut to use what's available, including vaccines, to keep them and their families safe. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in calling this hotline number, you rarely get any kind of pertinent information on what steps are required, and if you don't agree with the assertions, such as don't go out if you have a cold or flu.

Also, if you need to go outside you must only go outside using a mask, or you may go buy foodstuffs hurriedly and leave immediately upon purchasing your items. These are just recommendations, so does this mean that this so-called pandemic is no longer a pandemic and not a concern any longer? Are you now treating this like any other flu or ordinary cold as a department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the government still maintains that this is still concerning for our collective safety, however, with the increased availability of various injections, it is still concerning, but unlike the narrative during the previous period when it was an unknown pathogen and without the injections, our concerns comparatively are much lower, nonetheless, I already stated what the federal government maintains are the safest methods, such as proper medical treatments,

masking and the so called rapid tests, which are inserted into your nostrils to check called a (interpretation ends) rapid test (interpretation) are in my opinion, something I have experienced personally.

All of my family also were infected with the COVID-19 last month again, and our children got sick and my wife and I also got re-infected, and you must try to empathize with children who are suffering from the flu. Therefore, we are pushing the narrative of needing the injection for youth and our elders, and of the need for compliance.

I hope that Nunavummiut will and get this injection, and to ignore the conspiracy theories on social media and not to believe alternative media that portrays the injection as dangerous. The federal government has information pertaining to this injection and other flu shots.

People in Nunavut should not hesitate to ask their local nurse or call the Nunavut hotline. These tools are the things that we will use to continue to combat COVID-19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members, please note that the time for question period has expired. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend the question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There is a nay. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 048 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of Community and Government Services Concerning the Building Code Act

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table today a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the *Building Code Act*.

I will have questions for the minister on this issue during the fall sitting and I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 049 – 6(2): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report 2021

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Environmental Rights Act* Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Tabled Document 050 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation Concerning the Country Food Distribution Program

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation concerning the Country Food Distribution Program.

I will have questions for the minister on this issue during the fall sitting and I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Tununiq, Ms. Nutarak.

Tabled Document 051 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with Canada Post Corporation Concerning its Indigenous and Northern Reconciliation Strategy

Ms. Nutarak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of my recent exchange of correspondence with the Canada Post Corporation concerning its Indigenous and Northern Reconciliation Strategy.

I will have questions for the Minister of Justice on this issue during the fall sitting and I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 09 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022 – Second Reading**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm last to stand up once in a while.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 9 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Commissioner’s Land Act – Second Reading

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 12, *An Act to Amend the Commissioner’s Land Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Commissioner’s Land Act* to include lands whose administration and control have been transferred by the Governor in Council to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 12 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Bill 14 – An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – Second Reading

Hon. David Joanasie: Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act* to provide for a more flexible composition of the Northern Employee Benefits Pension Committee and more regulation-making powers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 11 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Second Reading

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 11, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends various Acts to update references to the Crown following the demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the ascension of His Majesty King Charles III. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 11 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Limitations of Actions Act and the Legal Questions Act and Repeal and Replace the Interprovincial Subpoenas Act – Second Reading

Hon. Craig Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 13, *An Act to Amend the Limitation of Actions Act and the Legal Questions Act and to Repeal and Replace the Interprovincial Subpoenas Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Limitations of Actions Act* to introduce a general three-year limitation period and the *Legal Questions Act* to provide for legal questions to be referred directly to the Nunavut Court of Appeal. It also replaces the *Interprovincial Subpoenas Act* with the *Inter-jurisdictional Subpoena Act* based on a model Act adopted by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 13 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 8 and Bill 10 with Mr. Hickes in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:04 and Committee resumed at 16:27*

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

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 8 and Bill 10. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with the review of the 2023-24 capital main estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Health. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee in agreement that we first deal with Bill 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Joanasie: do you have any officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do, if you will allow. Thanks.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you. For the record, Minister Joanasie, can you introduce your officials to the committee?

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley and to my right is the Director of Financial Services Mandy Hickey. Thank you.

Chairman: Welcome to both of you. When we left off on Thursday, we were on page J-3 and that's Local Government Services and the amount being requested is \$45,209,000, and the next name I had on my list was Mr. Malliki. Please proceed.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials.

My first question is on the minister's opening comments on page 2, \$31,234,000 for quality water and for wastewater infrastructure. Which communities are you looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The communities are: Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Sanikiluaq as well. Hold on one moment, please.

Sorry about that Mr. Chairman. Sanikiluaq and Rankin Inlet sewage systems will also be worked on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Some communities have boil advisories in place. I would like to prioritize communities that have boil water advisories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the communities with boil water orders have different issues and through the Department of Health, but in terms of capital projects, the water boil advisory, the communities are made aware. Mr. Chairman, they are a priority, but funding is an issue and when we put out an RFP, that is how the process works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. In terms of the capital projects there is a large portion going to Rankin Inlet and various projects that are expensive, smaller communities are once again not being looked at.

There are numerous smaller communities, but the distribution for smaller communities is too small Mr. Chairman. I'll have more questions.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't hear a question in there, but maybe the minister like to make a comment. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Rankin Inlet, those are major projects and that does and it shown by the size of the budget. Outside of that we are busy with other communities. In Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, there is work happening for improvements to their system as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister for the answer. And, also which communities are going to get the granular crush equipment program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a number of communities that require granular materials. We also need to find a contractor to which communities which will be selected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Moving on (interpretation ends) The 2022-23 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services include \$1.5 million of planning studies on March 31, 2022. The list of the planning studies was provided to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. A total of nine planning studies were included for five departmental and public agencies. To what extent has the COVID 19 pandemic include the addition in supply chain disturbs the impact of these studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends): No doubt our capital planning process has been impacted by COVID, but with particular line item on planning and preplanning, I will if you allow my deputy to dive a little more into detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Please process Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member the question. The COVID pandemic has impacted virtually every component of how we live and work here in Nunavut. Right down to working from home and our staff learning to adapt to function to that home work environment. The timing of the planning a lot of it is seasonally dependent. It can only be done in the summer months. A missed opportunity within planning during the spring and late winter season can delay work happening within the planning for a full year. From the supply chain perspective that not been a big factor

within planning just by the nature of work that is being done within a planning phase of a project, but as with most of the work we do COVID got it's fingerprints on it and has had its impacts. I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. (interpretation ends) The proposed for 2023-24 capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services include \$1.5 million for studies. In recent correspondence to the Members of the Legislative Assembly dated October 18, 2022, you indicate that no new projects will be added to the planning envelope in the year next fiscal year instead. The 2023-24 funding request for planning of \$1.5 million will be targeted towards the project already approved by the Financial Management Board prior to fiscal year 2023-24. If there are no new projects being added to the planning envelope for the 2023-24 fiscal year, why is the department requesting \$1.5 million for planning studies? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member for the question. We are requesting this budget line item as in previous years and we do have the list of current projects that are in planning and we want to continue on with that work through those projects that we want to continue to plan with.

Members can note that it's an every year endeavour that there are projects that get entered into the planning envelope. We understand there is a high degree of interest in this, but for this fiscal year we want to kind of put things to a halt...not necessarily to a halt but not add anything into the planning envelope but continue on with what we already have in the list and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. (interpretation) Which planning studies have not yet started? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't see any of the projects that are currently in planning that have not started yet. I stand to be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. None of the planning studies have been started. Which studies are behind schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The planning studies are in different stages, some of them have just started and some are farther along than others. I would like my Deputy Minister to explain this in regards to planning studies.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

Mr. Seeley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. The planning funding that is awarded; pending approval here in the Assembly, each year goes toward managing the planning studies on projects put forward by client departments annually. Each of the projects, when added to planning, move forward at different paces depending on how quickly they must be advanced to meet regulatory requirements or to meet other external timelines for when a project must be started. Each of the projects that are identified within the planning envelope is at different stages of completion, depending on the number of studies, the sophistication of the project, and the project type.

The question about how many are started versus not started, I think that the bigger feature on the planning projects is how many of them are completed planning and ready to move into design. Right now we're proposing funding to execute the remainder and to update the additional planning on projects currently approved for the planning phase so that we're sure we've got the money to proceed with that planning throughout the remainder of the year, so that they're ready to advance through to the design phase when brought forward by the client departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister and his deputy. (interpretation ends) Which planning studies are behind schedule? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a bit difficult to determine a response on that because when we were putting the list of projects that are in planning, there were some delays due to COVID, for example, but as for which ones are delayed or on schedule, it's kind of difficult to pinpoint exactly where they're at, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps this can be answered. (interpretation ends) Which planning studies are over budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) None at this time. None of the planning projects can proceed without the money that we have allotted. (interpretation) I hope that's understandable. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With infrastructure planning to be constructed, the price of materials continues to increase. Will there be a request for additional funding if the construction contracts increase substantially? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is ongoing work on this and there are capital estimates. For example, although we try to keep up-to-date figures, due to price increases, the estimates increase accordingly, so we ask for more funding. I hope that is clear, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Which planning studies are expected to be completed before the end of the current 2022-23 fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. Sorry. (interpretation ends) We couldn't provide a definitive answer because, once the planning is complete, then that would move to the design phase of the project, which would entail other pots of funding that we would come forward with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasie. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister for explaining that. (interpretation ends) As of today, which municipalities have not submitted updated integrated community sustainability plans to your department? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Chairman. I believe the question was "which communities have not submitted?" I'll have to get back to the member, in short order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. We'll look forward to that information.

I would just like to get a clarification on a response that you gave to Mr. Malliki. When it's stated that no new projects will be added to the planning envelope in the next fiscal year, according to the substantiation sheets, that the \$1.5 million will be targeted to projects already approved by the Financial Management Board from previous fiscal years, to me that sends a message that somewhere there wasn't a sufficient budget to complete the planning requests from previous years because the budget would be appropriated for those planning studies. If there are no new projects being added to the list then that says to me that there wasn't sufficient budget to complete the planning studies that were previously approved by the Financial Management Board, yet the minister, in of his responses, stated that none were over budget. I would just like to get a clarification from the minister please.

Hon. David Joanasi: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These projects that are on, we do proceed with whatever stage they are at in the planning.

Our current list is...it's quite a list and it does encompass a lot of work that our planning team... A part of this work is also to try and update some of the information because some of it is from pre-COVID-19 time and looking at some of the communities' needs. I think we will continue to make sure that we do the best within the planning budget and making sure that it can proceed accordingly. Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if that answers your question or not, or if you want me to elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. I might have to look over the record tomorrow and see if that did answer my question, I still have some gaps. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister, for explaining that. I have a question about gravel and rock crushers. There are only 8 communities that requested one and they don't need to receive 16, so which community would be the priority for that? In English (interpretation ends) which community municipalities have the necessary community and which do not have it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Joanasi.

Hon. David Joanasi: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to take a step back and go back to the question around which communities have not submitted their integrated community sustainability plans. As of April 5, 2022, we had 18 approved communities: Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Nauyasat, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq, Sanirajak, Taloyoak, and Whale Cove; five have submitted, but they don't have a council motion to accompany that, which are: Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Kinngait, and Pangnirtung; and one has not submitted: Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Going back to his other question on the granular program, we envision, of course, working with the municipalities. We do have some communities that already have

equipment and/or the capacity to have a program in place, but we will be looking at the source of granular that they're trying to tap into. Each community, of course, is different. Some have a source in mind that is either outside of the municipal boundary or somewhere within. Looking at the location of the source as well as to help the operational component of it, some might need a training component added in.

For me to go through which communities, I might need to get those details back to the member and committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recognizing the clock, (interpretation ends) I would like to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and this motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the table.

Speaker: Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 10 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Joanasie. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets tomorrow at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for November 1:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 10
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 1, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:01*

Appendix – October 31, 2022



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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: MLA Malliki, Aivilik

Asked of: Minister Joanasie

Number: 182-6(2)

Date: Oct 31, 2022

Subject: Naujaat Fire Inspections and Fire Marshal Office Staffing

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement responses I gave during question period on October 27, 2022. The Member for Aivilik requested information regarding the last fire inspection on the Naujaat Community Hall by the Fire Marshal's Office and the staffing levels within the Fire Marshal's Office.

I would like to supplement and clarify my response to the member from Aivilik regarding these questions. The last fire inspection of the Naujaat Community Hall by the Fire Marshal's Office was on August 5th, 2021. The Kivalliq Assistant Fire Marshal is scheduled to arrive in the hamlet on November 1st to complete fire inspections throughout the Hamlet.

Also, I stated the number of vacancies in the Office of the Fire Marshall was 8 of a total of 16 positions. The figure I quote is for the entire Safety Services Division which includes the Office of the Fire Marshall. The current number of vacant positions within the Fire Marshall's Office is 4 of out of a total of 8 positions. My statement of 50% vacancy level was correct.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.