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## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

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(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*

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak**  
(Rankin Inlet South)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the  
Financial Management Board; Minister  
responsible for the Nunavut Housing  
Corporation*

**Hon. Joanna Quassa**  
(Aggu)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage;  
Minister of Languages; Minister  
responsible for Seniors*

**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  
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**Joe Savikataaq**  
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**Solomon Malliki**  
(Aivilik)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**George Hickes**  
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*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  
Corporation*

**Hon. David Joanasie**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, November 1, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaerner, Ms. Mary Killiktee, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Hon. John Main, 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 13:30*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Tony Akoak)(interpretation): Before we begin, can you say the opening prayer, please, Mr. Kaerner.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day, Inuit. To those who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast, welcome to you all.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 088 – 6(2): Papal Visit and Apology in Nunavut**

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to my fellow MLAs.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about His Holiness Pope Francis' visit to Iqaluit on July 29, 2022.

I want to firstly thank Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for their leadership in organizing the events.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's role in the papal visit included welcoming his Holiness to Nunavut and sending him off as he left Canada. Our involvement was guided by the leadership and vision of a group of residential school survivors.

According to our elder advisors, we worked to highlight our culture, language, and traditions during the visit.

I am personally in awe of the dedication of our elder advisors to raise awareness about the truth of what Inuit endured at residential schools. I want to personally thank Andrea Tautu and Piita Irniq, as well two members who are joining us here today, both Alexina Kublu as well as Jack Anawak, for sharing their insights and stories with me.

Mr. Speaker, the road to healing is a personal one and takes different turns for every individual. However, I have heard from many elders that the papal visit and apology made an impact on their personal journey towards healing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 089 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure Update**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should start by expressing my pride in my niece giving birth to a baby boy this morning. I share in the couple's joy.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to provide an update on the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's progress on our marine infrastructure initiatives.

The department continues to make progress in advancing major marine infrastructure initiatives in Pond Inlet, Iqaluit, and Qikiqtarjuaq.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this past July, I was honoured to attend the grand opening of the Pond Inlet Community Harbour, which includes newly constructed breakwaters, a wharf, floating docks, and sealift laydown areas, all of which were successfully used during the summer 2022 boating, harvesting and resupply season.

In Iqaluit the marine facilities are now substantially complete and will be ready for community use for the summer 2023 open water season.

(interpretation ends) Finally, after community engagement sessions in May 2022, the Qikiqtarjuaq Port project is moving into the planning and design stages, and the department expects to issue a request for proposals for engineering and design in the coming months. All of these projects represent a major improvement for community boaters, researchers, sealift operators, and the fishing industry.

Major marine infrastructure initiatives in Nunavut are typically jointly funded between the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada. Despite the considerable progress made on developing marine infrastructure over the past 10 years, more federal investment is needed.



Mr. Speaker, additional marine infrastructure means additional economic opportunities for Nunavummiut, and we continue to encourage the Government of Canada to invest in Nunavut and bring our marine infrastructure up to a level that is comparable to that established on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

My department will continue to advocate on behalf of Nunavummiut and communities for increased federal investment and to seek federal funding for a variety of marine projects across all available federal programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 090 – 6(2): Health Centre Closures**

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

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtitsijii*, in June, due to nursing staff shortages, the Department of Health was forecasting more than 1,200 days of health centre closures across 14 health centres over the summer season.

Of course this forecast was a major concern to the department as it represented thousands of lost service hours and negative impacts to health care service delivery for Nunavummiut. While we had contingencies in place to ensure emergency services were available if a health centre closed, we were not content on relying on that solution.

I want to commend Health's operations task force. In response to the staffing shortages, this team worked extremely hard all summer. From aggressively recruiting new staff, reallocating staff between health centres, to executive managers working on the frontline, the task force cut the closure time to just 35 days in two health centres.

The Department of Health continues to work toward long-term staffing solutions to ensure Nunavummiut have access to stable and continuous care. Like the rest of the country, we have had to adapt to the growing national shortage in nursing staff, which has worsened due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tools such as our *Roadmap to Strengthen the Nunavut Nursing Workforce* and the Registered Nurses Association of Northwest Territories and Nunavut's 2021 nursing survey will help in building the strong and consistent nursing workforce Nunavummiut need and deserve. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 091 – 6(2): Housing Supply Challenge**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the people of Rankin Inlet, and visitors in the gallery.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada announced in the 2019 federal budget a housing supply challenge with the overarching objective of reducing barriers to housing supply and affordability. The challenge offers up to \$300 million in funding for new ideas and solutions that will help more people find an affordable place to call home.

Early this year, as part of the Northern Access Round, the Nunavut Housing Corporation applied for the Supply Chain Solutions for Northern and Remote Housing.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the legislature today that Nunavut Housing Corporation was successful and passed stage 1 of the challenge with their project: Ensuring access to appropriate land for accelerated housing supply in Nunavut. Nunavut was among 187 submissions from applicants across Canada. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's application was one of 33 moving onto the second stage of the round with \$250,000 in incubation funding.

Mr. Speaker, timely access to appropriate places to build has been a historical barrier to new housing supply, and Nunavut's severe housing shortage continues to impact the health of Nunavummiut and the vitality and economic well-being of our territory. In this project solution, NHC and its housing partners will collaborate to develop strategies that ensure a reliable supply of appropriate places to build housing across the territory with proper, planned and zoned land that can be more readily matched with shovel-ready projects, an issue that was brought forward by my colleague from Arviat South earlier in the session.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Nunavut Housing Corporation staff and their project team again on the work that went into preparing a thorough and well-detailed proposal. I wish them good luck for round 2 of the Housing Supply Challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Minister's Statement 092 – 6(2): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow MLAs and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update my colleagues on significant progress within the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council.

The mandate of the council is to ensure women's rights and voices are reflected in Nunavut's programs, services, legislation, and policies and to promote changes in social, legal and economic structures.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we now have a full nine-member council board of directors. Our representatives hail from across Nunavut. Qullit also has a new executive director, Cate MacLeod.

All members are in Iqaluit this week for their annual general meeting and will set strategic direction and priorities for the coming year. I had the pleasure of speaking with the team yesterday morning and I am excited to be able to work with such a dynamic, passionate group of women to shape and guide the critical work of advocating and assisting women in our territory.

Once again, please welcome existing members Clara Evalik, Amber Aglukark, Laureen Pameolik, Joan Kalaserk, as well as new members Katie May Dunford-Anawak, Jukipa Kotierk, Geela Maniapik, Mary Akpalialuk, and Ruth Kaviok. I know they will do great things together and I am very excited to provide regular updates on Qullit's progress throughout the remainder of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, equal and equitable participation of women in Nunavut benefits us all, and I am committed to this goal. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

**Minister's Statement 093 – 6(2): Review of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and a special welcome to those here in the House today and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how valuable a post-secondary education can be. We also know that going to college or university can be very challenging and that financial support for students is critical to their success. For this reason, our government has committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program.

Mr. Speaker, to make these improvements, the Department of Education is conducting a comprehensive review of the FANS program to examine all aspects of the program, and I am pleased to provide you with an update on this important work.

Mr. Speaker, the FANS review is being conducted under the guidance of a project team composed of Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated staff. The review is examining all elements of the program, including funding, communication, staffing, program infrastructure, coordination with regional Inuit organizations, and much more.

The comprehensive review has multiple aspects, including stakeholder interviews with students, families, regional Inuit organizations, and key post-secondary institutions; a jurisdictional scan to identify best practices; a review of research on post-secondary education success for Inuit; and a *Hansard* review to identify issues raised by MLAs on behalf of their constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share that the broad scope of the review enables us to reimagine what the program could and should be. We are looking for a full, comprehensive review rather than small individual solutions so that we can address long-standing complex issues. This is a significant undertaking that will take time to do properly and effectively, but it is worth the time and effort to create a program that truly supports our students.

I look forward to providing you further updates as this very important work progresses.  
*Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

#### **Minister's Statement 094 – 6(2): New Territory-wide Electricity Rates**

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you all. People of Baker Lake, I hope you have a wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with incredible news, 20 years in the making. The Qulliq Energy Corporation has finally been approved for new territory-wide electricity rates effective October 1, 2022. This means all customers of the same type will pay the same rate for electricity, regardless of which Nunavut community they live in. After years of applications, this milestone is representative of the corporation's perseverance to create an equitable system for its valued customers and the territory's commitment to help ease financial burdens for its people.

Operating 25 remote power plants requires significant capital and operations budgeting, which means the Qulliq Energy Corporation's customers pay some of the highest electricity rates in Canada. While the Government of Nunavut's Electricity Subsidy Program ensures that customers can afford to keep their homes and businesses running, we have agreed to further subsidize this critical service by increasing government electricity rates in order to lower rates for residents and commercial customers. While

this decision came with much deliberation, it became clear our territorial government should make this important and fair transition. Much like the Qulliq Energy Corporation prioritizes serving its customers, Nunavummiut remain at the forefront of our government's decision-making.

For the Qulliq Energy Corporation to continue delivering safe and reliable power to homes, businesses, and government institutions, the corporation also received approval to increase its revenue requirements by 5 percent, driven by changes in fuel costs, staffing, and capital investments. This is the lowest increase the Qulliq Energy Corporation has requested since the corporation's establishment, supporting its efforts in fiscal responsibility. Further to this, a new municipal tax-based rate was also approved at non-government rates to avoid negative financial impacts on residents in jurisdictions that contribute to community tax revenues.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation's previous rate structure was inherited from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and included different rates for each community. For many years, rate adjustments were implemented on an equal percentage basis across all customer types. This would disproportionately impact smaller communities that had higher rates, making them increase significantly more than larger communities with lower rates.

Mr. Speaker, I must express again that the Qulliq Energy Corporation and our government recognize the value of a fair and equitable system for Nunavummiut by removing disparities for our smaller communities and promoting economic growth. I welcome this change as an imperative government decision supporting Piliriqatigiinniq and Ikajuqtigiinniq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 120 – 6(2): Addressing Poverty**

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues. I welcome the visitors, the people of Amittuq, and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue regarding poverty. Here it is stated in this House that those have jobs also end up living in poverty after having to pay their rent and so forth. They are living pay cheque to pay cheque and between those times they experience hardships. We know Christmas is coming soon and our clothing, food and rents are constantly in price, including electricity.

It is one of the big concerns for businesses; “Am I running out of fuel? Do I owe too much for electricity?” Also for hunters, they have children and they hunting and you can’t get a job, especially in communities where jobs are almost nonexistent.

I have often raised this issue since I got elected to my position as a representative for the Amittuq; for the communities of Sanirajak and Igloolik, as we also think of poverty. I would like to stress to government, in particular, Family Services, the food banks should be considered further by the government and be given more support for the fact that food prices are just increasing and you have our elders who have to depending on a monthly pension. They go through difficulty and hardship.

In raising this, at the appropriate time I will have questions for the appropriate minister what further efforts her department can do for Nunavummiut. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members’ Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

**Member’s Statement 121 – 6(2): Airline Services for Medical Travellers**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you my fellow Nunavummiut. For the visitors here, welcome.

The reason why I rise today as well, was in our community prior to this session, I allude to the issue of the fact a single airline services your communities, Canadian North, to name them specifically, originally led to expectations about improvements, but today the reality is that the changes have had a significant impact on all, including Nunavummiut that are also impacted by this.

When you need to travel to visit or as workers on a temporary placement, medical patient travel, and tourists or other visitors, when the scheduled flight is cancelled, Mr. Speaker, it really causes a lot of problems when other arrangements must be made with the delays.

When you become unable to leave with no room on the following flights, it can lead to an additional week or even two weeks before they can leave and there is one person going onto their third week, as I speak about this matter, this fellow resident has been unable to get a seat as of today.

With that being the case, it requires assistance from the airlines, as we need to lighten the distress it causes, especially relating to those whom we represent in our constituencies as we must voice the difficulties they face, especially those medical patients who must endure ongoing travel issues who are unable to return home.

What I want to speak to is that we must really work hard to provide support to those whom we represent, especially in looking at ways to relieve their stress, provide more

support and to assist those people outside, as it too can have a personal benefit to those providing this assistance.

I wanted to mention this Mr. Speaker, as there is an ongoing significant concern today for those are unable to travel. This is something that has to be heard in this House and verbal assurances announcing support for our citizenry and ways to improve the scheduling and airline services. For that reason, on behalf of people on medical travel, the disabled and those who have to travel on medical at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Health under Question Period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 122 – 6(2): Bad Naphtha Being Sold in Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish a good day to Kuglukturmiut and Nunavummiut, along with the visitors in the gallery.

What I wish to speak to here is in relation to a very serious concern held by residents of Kugluktuk, and it relates to hunters and others who go on the land, as well as the Kugluktuk Canadian Rangers. I will have questions on this later to the appropriate department relating to this matter, to those who work in that field.

This concern relates to naphtha or white gas that is currently being sold by the Kugluktuk Co-op to residents who are going on the land or going hunting. When this fuel is used in the camping stoves, it emits a foul-smelling odour, and even when used in gas lanterns. It is having a palpable effect as well on our hunters and campers using this fuel.

They suffer from bad headaches, and even chest pains when breathing while they are using this fuel.

The Kugluktuk Co-op still has about 1,100 cans yet to sell in their store, and the replacement value is valued at approximately \$12,000. And we were informed that previously the almost exact situation occurred in Taloyoak with noxious white gas. However, due to the hard work of various parties, this was resolved quickly so we want ours worked on urgently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Member's Statement 123 – 6(2): Food Insecurity Crisis**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that is becoming more critical by the day. Food insecurity is a very real fact for far too many of our constituents.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Brewster:** Feeling hungry on a daily basis can lead and does lead to desperation. Desperation can lead to negative actions and consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I have learned that in your community of Gjoa Haven the school was broken into on a number of occasions. There was no major theft, no vandalism, no wild shenanigans. The perpetrators were looking for food. They broke into a building where they knew there would be food and raided the fridge and pantry. Mr. Speaker, that is an act of desperation.

Mr. Speaker, the director of the Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre here in Iqaluit recently spoke to the media about the dramatic increase in the number of people, many of them children, who are showing up for a meal. Currently, the Food Centre is serving over 500 meals a day compared to the 150 meals a day that they were serving this time last year. That is more than a 300 percent increase.

Mr. Speaker, more than three times as many people are going hungry as last year. Our food charities can't keep up. Nor should they be the ones to carry the whole burden.

Mr. Speaker, income assistance benefits haven't kept up with the rising cost of living. The government's poverty reduction initiative haven't lifted enough families over the poverty line. Policies to support our local harvesters to provide nutritious country food, *Inuksiutiit*, haven't been enough to fill those refrigerators. The concept of a guaranteed basic income has been reviewed, but we have yet to see any concrete results or recommendations.

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

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think we can agree that we must act fast to address our food insecurity crisis. When people are hungry the simplest task can seem immensely difficult. When children are hungry they cannot learn and they cannot thrive. Hunger leads to desperation. We must do better to address this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

#### **Member's Statement 124 – 6(2): Happy Birthday to Granddaughter**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) To the people in Rankin Inlet today, I know that most residents are doing fine, and I am glad of that, since I was



informed that power outages came and went last night, but there were no issues as a result.

What I want to speak to today, is personal as I rise to announce several of my grandchildren will be celebrating their birthdays as some of the older ones have birthdays usually when I am here in Iqaluit, one is turning 13 and I have only gone once to one of these birthdays. The one celebrating a birthday today, as she is the second oldest Phoebe Nash is now seven years old, and I am again missing it.

At the very least, I can announce publicly “happy birthday” to her, Mr. Speaker. Her Inuit name is Amajurjuk after my late sister who was my *Arnarvik*’s daughter, and this other person was not my *Arnarvik*, when I was a small child, I inadvertently said when the old lady named Okpik was introduced as my *Arnavik*, that she is not my *Arnarvik*. I was quite young, and I apparently said she wasn’t good looking enough.

Ever since that time, she always called me “not my nephew” and I continued to call her not my *Arnavik*, but she has passed on but now she has a namesake amongst my grandchildren, and she also is named after my late older brother, Jose.

She is celebrating her seventh birthday today, so *paipinuaq* “happy birthday” and she also made me a keepsake when she was about four or five years old as part of Remembrance Day, which I wear today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members’ Statements. Member for Arviat North- Whale Cove, Mr. Main.

**Member’s Statement 125 – 6(2): Grand Opening of Home Hardware in Arviat**

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the residents of Arviat and Whale Cove a wonderful day.

Mr. Speaker, firstly residents of Arviat are foremost in my mind, as they are experiencing hardship and I offer my love to the people who suffered a loss of their loved one.

Mr. Speaker, there are private businesses throughout which residents want to support because they create jobs locally and help improve the community through their personal hard work, commitment by establishing and creating a business locally and when they are thriving, it is very good to observe.

As part of sharing this good news, I wish to mention “Eskimo Point Lumber Supply” in English there in Arviat, in Inuktitut they call it *qiyulirivvik*. They built a new store which was just recently opened in October 21, and this new store is called “Home Hardware” in English, and it is an impressive store compared to the old store, and they have many items for sale that pique your interest including hunting equipment, foodstuffs, and other household items such as those important to us private home owners.

There are many other items, and due to their creation of new jobs, I wish to thank the business owners as they are also providing improvements to Arviat and what I have noticed in the past is their continual support for hockey tournaments, fishing derbies and such activities financially, or by offering gifts.

This is very good optically, and further, I wish to acknowledge their brand-new store also houses a second floor where commercial space is available for offices or other organizations to rent for activities. There are not many multifunction buildings that can be occupied so that space is precious, and this whole project was financed independently, and I wanted to voice my pride and to recognize their contributions locally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 126 – 6(2): The Discovery of Mary Papatsie**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon, I am rising to speak about the late Mary Papatsie.

Mary Papatsie grew up in Pangnirtung who ended up moving to Ottawa. In 2017, she was the subject of a police search when she could not be found anywhere and at that time, she was 39 years old. To members of her family, friends and the police were all trying to look for her, but nobody was able to find her. This matter affected many of us, and many people cried over her disappearance.

Finally, last month after a period of five years, her remains were found at an area undergoing construction work in Ottawa. The finding of her remains reopened the pain felt previously, but on the other hand, it made it a little bit easier knowing she had been found.

In remembrance of her, and the fact that she was greatly loved by her relatives, family, and children. Mary's disappearance affected many of us deeply, and further, it highlights that women are in danger out there, especially indigenous people and women. Many people were personally impacted by this loss.

As the representative and MLA for Pangnirtung, including my appointment to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The victims are the most numerous in Canada who have been affected by these events. I stand to remember her legacy, her relatives and especially to voice the fact that we can't just accept violence against women anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 127 – 6(2): Summer Bowhead Whale Hunt in Igloolik**

**Hon. Joanna Quassa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, the people of Pangnirtung are at the top of my thoughts, especially her relatives. To residents of Igloolik, and visitors here, welcome to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reminisce about an event that transpired this summer, as I took great pride in it. When men gather as a group, they can accomplish great things, and this summer, on August 7, there was a flotilla of five boats who worked as a team, while teaching each other, totalling twenty hunters were able to harvest a bowhead.

The tradition of harvesting bowhead whales is still being relearned by our younger hunters, and I am ecstatic about that, as they also fed many of their fellow residents when the hunters work as a team. I strongly urge them to again work in partnership, and to collaborate on harvesting so that food insecurity can be lessened in our communities when they work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 128 – 6(2): Movember Movement**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues, members in the Visitor's Gallery, and Nunavummiut watching our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, November is an important month for men. Across the world and the territory, men are suffering in silence and this is one of the traits of toxic masculinity. The Movember movement was created to raise awareness of such issues such as men's mental health, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

Mr. Speaker, generally I would show my support in a more physical way but unfortunately this morning I was on autopilot and decided to shave anyway. So, Mr. Speaker, without a physical 'stache' I would like to salute all those men out there showing their support and thank them for doing their part in joining the Movember movement and raising funds for men's health initiatives.

I would like to ask all member in stepping up and setting a good example and encouraging other men to speak more freely about their issues in hopes of one day seeing an end of that toxic masculinity.

Again, thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to say "thank you" to all those with Mo Bros, mustache bros, and encourage all Nunavummiut, show their support and make donations where possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 181 – 6(2): Guaranteed Basic Income**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement answers I provided on October, 27, 2022, following questions from the Member for Iqaluit Manirajak; Adam Lightstone.

In 2022, the number of individuals receiving income assistance in Iqaluit was approximately 593 per month; 368 heads of households, 35 spouses and 190 dependents.

Regarding the Guaranteed Basic Income report, my department expects to have a final report completed by March 2023.

Mr. Speaker, my department is not considering incorporating rent into the current income support system or any potential Guaranteed Basic Income program. The bulk of housing subsidies for income support clients are covered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Minister Nakashuk.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me again.

The reason I rise today is to acknowledge and recognize the members of the Qulliit Nunavut Status of Women Council, who are attending to their annual general meeting this week, and they are meeting in one of our meeting rooms.

I would like all of my colleagues to warmly welcome them here. Their office manager is Kate McLeod, and I ask that each member to rise when I mention your names: Clara Evalik, Mary Apalialuk, Amber Aglukark, Jukipa Kotierk, Katie May Dunford-Anawak.

My apologies as the other four members could not arrive due to bad weather. I'm sure they will visit here at some point when it is convenient, but I would like them all to be welcomed.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very to stand to recognize all of these incredible women who are here in our House today. All of whom, I have a friendship, a working relationship with. Cate Mcleod, Jukipa Kotierk, we volunteered together. Mary Akpalialuk and I worked together for a number of years at the Department of Health. Very productive years. Amber Aglukark who is a good friend of mine and Katy May Dunford Anawak who is also my constituent and a young woman that I value very much and I look up to. And, last but not least a woman who once carried me for many years until I was too old to be actually to be amaaq, Ms. Clara Evalik or Evalik as we would say in Ikaluktutiak. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't recognize people to often here. I'd like to recognize all the members of Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and in particular, I'd like to recognize Cate Mcleod. In my former life, when I was Premier of Nunavut, Cate was my communications officer and she worked hard and tirelessly at it and now as the new Executive Director of Status of Women, the flames will be shooting high on that qulliq.

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Savikataaq:** With her hard working, her perseverance, her work ethics the Status of Woman is very lucky to get a such a strong hard worker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the Gallery, the new Commanding Officer of Nunavut's "V" Division, Chief Superintendent Andrew Blackadar. Andrew comes to us with 32 years of policing experience ranging from policing small communities in Newfoundland and Labrador to larger city centres in British Columbia. He is a firm believer in communities first and is committed to working with Nunavummiut and advancing reconciliation between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and our Territory. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all Members to join in welcoming our new Chief of Police Andrew Blackadar. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** Koana, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome our Commanding Officer and the Qullit Status of Woman Board and in particular I'd like to acknowledge Ms. Clara Evalik for being here and being a part of the Board and the important work that she does. I've known her my whole life and always look up to her. And, I look forward to the work that this Board will do over during their duration as Board members and wish all the best in their terms. Koana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Assembly. I have no more names. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit, Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 197 – 6(2): Loss of Government Office Building in Gjoa Haven**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services regarding the replacement of office space lost due to fire in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, in March 2022 the Government of Nunavut office in the community was consumed by fire. That office provided essential services such as the community, but the region, services such as motor vehicle services, legal services, community probation services, and government liaison office services.

I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to provide an update to this House on the replacement of the lost office space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The Government of Nunavut leased building that caught fire in Gjoa Haven, it was a devastating loss, of course, for the community. I want to first commend our Community and Government Services' informatics team that went in right away to restore the network for the region and the community. That was a very intensive undertaking.

As for the building, itself, and the placement costs for the replacement for the building, that is still not determined as of yet. What I can say is that the GN is not the owner of that asset. The insurance claim details and the rebuilding plan have to go through owners in this case, which is the Nunavut Construction Company. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my next question. The government offices that were lost to fire included four crucial services: motor vehicles, legal services, probation, and government liaison offices.

Mr. Speaker, for next question I'd to inquire the Department of Community and Government Services been successful in seeking alternative offices spaces to ensure that the community and the region still has access these crucial services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, my department's Real Property Division was able to establish a new lease to house Government of Nunavut workers in Gjoa Haven, which is on the second floor of a two-story multi-use building. This lease space is suitable for the displaced workers. It requires some minimal set-up construction. That has been made available, as I understand it, since June. We hope that will be put to good use up until the replacement building has been constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some Nunavummiut has expressed concerns regarding the procurement of this office space. I'd like to ask the minister if he would be able to elaborate a bit further about the procurement method utilized to fund this alternative workspace, and any such details about the contract costs and the duration. Most importantly, given the amount of Elders in the community, whether or not the alternative workspaces are accessible to individuals who may have mobility issues. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can ask for clarification on the procurement of the new building he is talking about. I may stand to be corrected, but in terms of that, as I stated, that is not a government owned asset, so as such the procurement is not being managed by my department. However, what I can say is that we do expect that what will be constructed will be comparable to what was lost, so the specification, the material asset that was lost in that fire, we expect similar arrangements that would fit the community's needs and our service department that we provide office space to in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 198 – 6(2): Income Assistance Allowances**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to members, hello to Coral Harbour and Nauyasarmiut. My question today is regarding Income Assistance

through Family Services. The support, the family allowance is not keeping up with the cost of living. The last increase was in 2019 before COVID-19.

Can the minister tell us when she expects an increase in the basic allowance rates for Income Assistance clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that question. It's a good one. We have been discussing this and it is not the first time. We too have been concerned about the rates and the increase in inflation, but currently I can't give you information on what we are doing. We are going to clarify what we will propose. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I also thank the minister for her consideration on this issue.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the most recent consumer price index statistics published by the Government Bureau of Statistics in May 2022 shows that there has been a 3.5 percent increase in the cost of basic goods and services in Nunavut since May 2021.

Can the minister clearly explain how her department ensures that income assistance clients receive enough support to be able to feed their families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) I think in the last couple of years the Department of Family Services has made some changes within the policies.

The most impactful one that I can think of is the child benefits that families do receive. They don't get deducted off of their Income Assistance benefits anymore. Also, the home income has maximized up to \$700 without impacting their allowance as well.

As I had mentioned, the department is reviewing the benefits at this time and I can't get into the details of that at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is quite clear that the price of these baskets of goods have steadily increased since 2019. From what we read in the media, the costs will continue to rise living in the north where we rely on expensive air transportation for many of the goods, which also adds to the costs.



When will the minister commit to introducing Income Assistance basic allowance regulations as soon possible to be fully taken into account the increase to the cost of living in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) We had our annual roundtable meetings back in June, and that is our working relationship with the Department of Family Services and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We talk about poverty reduction in the territory. The food basket is also mentioned a lot in the survey that was done within the department. We do recognize the cost of food is increasing, and it has risen quite a bit.

Those are things that we are working on, in terms of how we can provide supports within the community level, as well as non-profit societies, and also the income assistance benefits that we are looking at, at this moment. I would say within the springtime we would know more about what that report will forward after our survey. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 199 – 6(2): Services at Winnipeg Inuit Centre**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. A number of my constituents have raised concerns regarding the services provide by the Winnipeg Inuit Centre. Medical clients often have to wait over an hour to be picked up from the airport. When they arrive at the centre, the level of services is well below an acceptable standard.

Can the minister clarify how often his department evaluates the level of services being provided at the facilities, which are contracted to provide services to Inuit medical clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. The operators at the Kivalliq Inuit Centre, *Iglualuk*, I believe it's called; we will be having a meeting because they're operating and there is a service agreement signed.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we do meet with the operators of the Winnipeg boarding home quarterly. However, my staff does also hold as-needed meetings with the operators. As I've mentioned previously in the House, we're constantly looking for ways

that we can improve the medical travel experience for our patients. That includes monitoring things like the Office of Patient Relations, where if we notice there is a trend of complaints on a particular issue, then we can take further action and work with our contractors to make improvements. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical clients who travel to Winnipeg have to stay at the Inuit centre or the hotel provide by the Inuit centre are provided with food vouchers for a local restaurant, however, it is hardly enough to cover the cost of their meals.

It has been brought to my attention that the food vouchers to First Nations clients are of higher value than those provided to Inuit.

Can the minister clarify whether the travel and accommodation amounts provided under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program should be the same as First Nations clients as they are for Inuit clients? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I was fortunate to be given opportunity to meet with Minister Hajdu last week, the Minister for Indigenous Services Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as the member indicated, those voucher amounts are set by Indigenous Services Canada and we are in discussions right with our federal colleagues or partners.

The main topic of discussion right is securing a long-term agreement on Non-Insured Health Benefits funding for the territory. So that is a very large envelope of different programs, including air travel, including boarding homes, and things like food vouchers. So it is during those negotiations that we have an opportunity to flag issues of concern.

At the end of the day the amounts are set by Indigenous Services Canada, but when the Department of Health hears of concerns we are able to relay those to Indigenous Services Canada and in the past those have translated into improvements.

One good example the private billet rate here in Iqaluit. That was flagged as an issue. It is not at \$202 a night, which is just an example of an improvement. For the other part of the question regarding First Nations vouchers, I'm unable to comment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you, minister for that good response. There is only one Inuk staff member at the Winnipeg Inuit Centre. This

does not help to make the centre more welcoming to Inuit who are far away from home receiving health services out of the territory.

Will the minister commit to working with the contractors of the Winnipeg Inuit Centre to hire more Inuit staff and improve the level of services for medical travellers from Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for the question. With regard to the use of the Inuit language, it is something of great importance as well as the use of the Inuktitut language at the hospital or at the boarding homes of people having to be provided medical services. It is supported by our government and with our meetings with the operators of these boarding homes at the Kivalliq Development Corporation, we urge them to hire more Inuit, but it is a private business and when it comes to staffing and providing training. It is operated at the discretion of the operators of these medical boarding homes.

It is not only Winnipeg, but also the one here in Iqaluit and Larga Baffin in Ottawa. We would like to see more Inuktitut-speaking staff. It is something that we will keep working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 200 – 6(2): Staffing Levels at Income Support Services**

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Amitturmiut and Nunavut.

During member's statements, I indicated that I would ask a question regarding poverty. I would first of all, as a preamble, state that Family Services is providing the services.

Can the minister indicate to the House or to the people of Nunavut if you have staff here in Iqaluit and how many are providing the services with regard to poverty reduction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank you for that question. In the headquarters, there is a headquarters. Some work regarding employment, some are family resource workers or social workers and some employees are working under Income Assistance and with Poverty Reduction. There are also different divisions and they work and do reviews on income support and whether to approve or not approve the applications. I can't tell you how many but that is our staff here at headquarters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, there is nobody working in Poverty Reduction. Christmas is just around the corner and there are a lot of people who are already concerned about whether they are going to have food on the table, whether they will be able to afford presents and so on and it is winter.

My question to the minister, Mr. Speaker is in regard to food banks. They run out of items to give away and we know that the cost of food is raising and we pay the most when we buy basics like flour and other staples. What is the department doing to help food banks so, that they can provide for their clients? Do you supply financial assistance so, that they can have food to give away? Do you for example, I'll use Amittuq as an example, in Hall Beach and Igloolik. Do you help food banks financially so, that they will have food to give away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the member for his question. The Department of Family Services. (interpretation ends) Just to be clear on what the Department of Family Services does. There's different initiatives that the department does and in Poverty Reduction whether it be in Poverty Reduction, Income Assistance Program, under the Income Assistance Program it really depends on head of household.

The application that comes through to the income assistance office and they look at the family size and as I had stated to the other member earlier that program is being reviewed right now and the other initiatives that the department has done especially in this past winter when we were facing COVID.

The department was giving away some money to non-profit organizations and as well as hamlets in the communities to provide more food banks and supports in that area. But, also under the homelessness initiative as well as transitional housing, homeless shelters, majority of money that comes through the Department of Family Services does not stay within the department. It comes down to grants and contributions that are applied into the programs. So, in all the majority the money that comes through to the Department of Family Services is well over \$5.5 million that goes into those areas and I can't express enough how much money comes very little into the operational within the operations in the department.

As I stated, the majority of the money goes into the communities that we serve. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you for the detailed information on income assistance, but my subject is about poverty reduction. In saying that, Mr. Speaker, I glad that Family

Services has looked into this \$5.5 million and I'm sure it will be used for a good cause. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I would like assurance from the minister that Family Services can be more useful in the communities like in the Amittuq.

Can I get assurance from the minister that this will be a priority when it comes to reducing poverty in all Nunavut communities, making sure that families are not hungry? I would like to get assurance from the minister that this will be a priority within the next three year term of our sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that question. You had questions on income support and then on poverty reduction. The Department of Family Services staff work tirelessly to provide the services to the communities and they also do reviews. As I indicated earlier, the money goes to the communities and the hamlets can ask for monies. Non-profit organizations can request money from our department. We understand that food prices are rising, we have meetings with Nunavut Tunngavik, and also community members when they go into town.

We talk about this every year and plan how we can provide better services. We had a meeting on this in the spring. We made some changes and compiled the concerns that we heard. We provide monies to the hamlet councils, to the non-profit organizations, so that they can provide better services to the local communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 201 – 6(2): Staffing of Nursing Positions**

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister of Health.

The shortage of nursing staff is a big concern for the Sanikiluaq and for many other communities across Nunavut. There seems to be a constant turnover of nurses in charge at health centres. Can the minister explain what steps his department takes to keep nurses, and especially nurses in charge, to stay working in communities long-term? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for the question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, nurses are basically the backbone of our healthcare system across Nunavut, and that includes SHIPs, we call them; Supervisor of Health Programs. It used to be called “nurse in charge.”

In terms of the retention aspect, which the member is asking about, we are experiencing difficulties in terms of our recruitments and retention efforts. The national picture in

terms of the nursing workforce has been strained largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. What we are seeing across the country is different jurisdictions are making improvements to what they're offering in terms of not just pay. It's not all about money. It's also about benefits. It's about the working environment. We are committed to meeting the needs of nurses in Nunavut and we are committed to being a competitive jurisdiction.

An example of one thing that we have done recently is we have strengthened the training and on-the-job education aspects, and that was through last year's budgetary allocation, and so now we have dedicated staff who support our nurses in the different regions when they're looking for additional educational or upgrading opportunities.

I hope that answers the member's question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that paramedics have been assigned to a number of communities, including Sanikiluaq, to help provide health care when there are not enough nurses on staff.

Will the minister clearly explain how the level of care that a paramedic can provide compares to the level of care that a nurse can provide, especially when a medical patient is in distress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Health initiated the paramedic program starting last summer and it was in response to staffing shortages and widespread projections of complete health centre closures. Last summer was the first year to have paramedics working across Nunavut and it was a learning experience to see how nursing staff and other health centre staff could work with the paramedics.

I realize that the member's question was around comparing nurses and paramedics. I'm not prepared to give a clinical type of comparison, but I can say that right now paramedics in Nunavut are working as a part of the health care team in the community. Paramedics are trained to deal with emergency medical needs and stabilize patients before handing them off or prepping them either for transport, it could be a medevac, or prepping them to transfer the care off to another health care professional. That's the role that they have been filling in Nunavut.

I'm happy to report that the paramedic program last summer and this summer has been successful from the Department of Health's view in helping to deal with our staffing shortages. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. The new staff housing complex in Sanikiluaq is nearing completion. Four units will become available and hopefully they will be allocated to health centre staff as the community health centre is close by.

Will the minister commit to hiring permanent nurses for the community of Sanikiluaq once the new staffing units are available for them to move into? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would love to commit to hiring indeterminate nurses for that community and all communities, but unfortunately I wouldn't want to commit to something that I can't guarantee is going to happen.

As I mentioned, across Canada, even internationally, it's very competitive to try to hire these professionals right now. We have noticed that Nunavut has fallen behind a bit in terms of our competitiveness nationally and it's something that, working with our partner departments in human resources as well as finance, and there's also a Nunavut Housing Corporation aspect there as well when it comes to staff housing.

Health is devoting considerable energy to seeing what we can bring forward in terms of additional benefits and additional incentives to retain and recruit these valued health professionals across Nunavut. Thank you so much for all your service to all the professionals in Nunavut currently working. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 202 – 6(2): Services for Elders in Pond Inlet**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a question to the Minister of Health. It looks like most of our questions are for him today.

Mr. Speaker, our esteemed elders in Nunavut, as we often say, as well as those who are in elder care facilities who are dearly beloved, especially those in Ottawa.

One of my constituents is currently living at the Embassy West facility in Ottawa. She desperately wants to come home but she cannot due to the lack of an elder care facility.

Can the minister clearly explain why his department does not support the establishment of an elder care facility in Pond Inlet? 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 her question about this matter. Yes, the facility in Ottawa houses elders currently who

require acute care and they must be cared for constantly which is why they are placed in that facility.

Now, it is called the Embassy West facility, and I went to tour the facility in the previous weekend and I met with the managers at the facility and discussed issues. I am proud of the dedication of the staff and their hard work in caring for the elders and for looking after them properly.

Our goal is still to look at creating two more elders' facilities as part of our mandate of *Turaaqtavut*, and this mandate includes language indicating that one facility will be constructed in Iqaluit, with the other to be built in Cambridge Bay. These two facilities are identified currently. However, after the completion of these two facilities, we would have to look at new locations as the MLAs will have to make other plans identifying new locations in the upcoming years.

I have heard requests previously as I have been a minister for about a year now. I have heard that the smaller communities also wish to see elder facilities, and if that is something we want to discuss further down the road, I would be happy to engage in that. However, the two facilities I am speaking to are the primary focus of our department at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, it is apparent that our elders get homesick, whether they are housed here in Iqaluit or even Igloolik; they want to return home and to return to their own small community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also query the minister about that. (interpretation ends) Not all elders need high-level medical care. Some elders simply need assistance with their day-to-day living or their family needs assistance or respite in providing care for an elder.

Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to establishing community-based elders facilities where elders could go to give some respite to their families or to escape elder abuse? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. In terms of additional consideration around those issues, I believe those will be captured under the work leading into a comprehensive senior strategy, which is being led by Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The Department of Health, we will be there. Obviously we are very interested in seeing what can be done to support seniors, whether they're living at home, whether they're living elsewhere.

The issue of elder abuse, which was mentioned, of course it's completely unacceptable. There are new models for elders facilities that are in place, such as the Green House



model, and those types of residential models are very interesting and something that we will be investigating further along with our partnering departments in the coming years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am very appreciative of the home care support that is provided to elders and others living in our communities. I was pleased to note that the Department of Health recognizes the importance of increasing capacity in the nursing and home care field.

Will the minister commit to expanding community home care services to provide respite care for elders in their home communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) If I could just get a clarification on what the request for commitment is. I apologize. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The minister is seeking clarification to your question, Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): I'm sorry for going too fast sometimes.

(interpretation ends) It's a commitment to expanding community home care services to provide respite care for elders in their home communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I really thank the member for raising the issue of home care as well as elders facilities. It's something that's very central in our mandate. I think that speaks to the importance that we all collectively place on elders' issues, whether it be housing, whether it be other aspects or health care related aspects.

I'm unable to commit at this time to the member's request in terms of additional services or improvements that we can make. I believe it would be best covered through a comprehensive review in terms of the options and where the gaps are and what needs to be done to fill those gaps through the strategy work that is being led by Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 203 – 6(2): New Territory-wide Electricity Rates**

**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 ask some questions on the minister’s statement again. Mr. Speaker, I’m aware that ministers’ statements can only be so long and there’s only so much information that the minister can put out, but at times there is more information that Nunavummiut would like to get.

My questions will be for the Minister of the Qulliq Energy Corporation on his minister’s statement. He talked about the new territory-wide rate. If the minister can just tell us what the new territorial power rate is for residential, commercial, and hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you will just allow me a second here to get my binder open. I’m getting there.

For the new residential, it’s 61.52 cents on government rate; for the commercial, it is 50.74 cents; and the hamlets, they’re at the government rate and it’s covered by Community and Government Services funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the minister correctly, the municipalities’ power bills are directly covered by Community and Government Services. I don’t want to use up a question for that, but if you can just clarify that with my next question too because that’s what I heard.

My second question will be that we know that there’s an electricity subsidy. The minister’s statement says, “...Electricity Subsidy Program ensures that customers can afford to keep their homes and businesses running...” What is the subsidy rate, either in kilowatts or in percentage, for homes and businesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the confusion. All hamlets are government rate. Community and Government Services pays for some of the operation costs, including power.

The Nunavut Energy Subsidy Program, you’re asking about the clarification. He’s asking for the rates. Is that what he’s asking for? If I can get clarification, please. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The minister is seeking clarification to your question, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question was: "...Electricity Subsidy Program ensures that customers can afford to keep their homes and businesses running..." That was in the minister's statement, and my question is: what is the subsidy program in terms of how much a kilowatt or a percentage to homes and businesses? 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 clarification. The Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program is actually run through the Department of Finance, and for residential and non-government, it is 30.76 cents per kilowatt-hour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the answer to my other part of the question, businesses, because in the minister's statement it clearly states "Electricity Subsidy Program." I'm aware that he said it is run by Finance. "...Electricity Subsidy Program ensures that customers can afford to keep their homes and businesses running..." Obviously there must be a subsidy for businesses.

Anyway, further on through his minister's statement, on the second page further down, it's talking about reliable power to homes and all that. It says, "Further to this, a new municipal tax-based rate was also approved at non-government rates to avoid negative financial impacts on residents in jurisdictions that contribute to community tax revenues."

Mr. Speaker, this seems to imply that all the municipalities are not being treated equally. I'm aware that this is for tax-based, but the municipalities will get a higher operating cost and I'm not sure if Community and Government Services is going to cover the higher rate costs. Just reasoning on the differentiating between tax-based and non-tax-based communities in terms of the rates that are being charged, I need a clarification. 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 new municipal tax-based rate stems from a meeting that happened between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the City of Iqaluit because they're the ones that would have experienced a significant rate increase. There was collaboration, a meeting between the two entities, and that's what they came down to. After those two meetings, there was collaboration between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Utility Rates Review Council. The Utility Rates Review Council recommended that we create this municipal tax-based rate for the City of Iqaluit. That's what this rate is for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 204 – 6(2): Airline Services for Medical Travellers**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. We were notified that you would be travelling away from home. Thank you for letting us know beforehand that you will be travelling. It is good that we have an opportunity to ask you questions today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about travelling by air. We get air services for those of us who have to travel.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and it deals with something very concerning because travelling away from home can be a very difficult experience for elders and others. They are worried but they have no choice but to leave by air, and our elders are worried and other people who physical disabilities are not sure if they are going to be taken care of and they have to place a lot of trust in the system when they are travelling.

So can the minister clarify what provisions are made to ensure that oxygen for medical clients is available on flights to the communities for those people who need it? Do they have oxygen available even if they don't have medical patients on board, and can he clarify which specific flights can provide oxygen for medical clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank my colleague for asking that question.

(interpretation ends) I am able to respond to the question specifically regarding medical travellers. That is the area that is within my portfolio. Regarding medical travellers, s. 68 of the GN's current contract specifies that Canadian North load a continuous supply oxygen device on its aircraft upon 48 hours' notice from the Government of Nunavut for use by passengers who are unable to use pulse dose oxygen tanks. The contract also states that Canadian North shall also make commercially reasonable efforts to accommodate requests made with less than 48 hours' notice.

For Calm Air, which is the other airline servicing Nunavut; the airline providing service to the Kivalliq region is not currently contractually obligated to provide continuous supply oxygen device on their aircraft, and that is something that we are currently in discussions with Calm Air officials on to see whether we can bring this service online, similar to what Canadian North is offering. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How shall I say this? You already answered part of my question, but there is an area of concern. People who have a

hard time breathing, even young people who have a hard time breathing generally because of a physical problem, they go to hospital because of that. Let me keep my focus on that. It is in reference to the 48-hour notice requirement; there must be a notification of that length. I heard that. However, with that being the case, we have witnessed useful events that have taken place, especially people who live in these communities.

Instances where the passengers have boarded the plane, and they disembark due to a lack of oxygen supplies on the aircraft. They leave the plane, and this creates more issues for the escorts who really must return home, perhaps because the escort has a job to return to, or something else causing worries from amongst their other relatives.

So, due to this reason, although your earlier response was comprehensible and I understand it now, that there was this service available which is not used. Due to this fact, I believe more emphasis must be placed in the consideration of travel arrangements and when their air travel is booked under a certain ticket category, and it should be carefully reviewed.

They should also provide more support especially if the passenger requires additional arrangements, and if they can research the issues that pop up, as sometimes it can lead to distressing situations, as they deplane due to the different reasons that delay flights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, patients who are on medical travel should be checked up on, as we want all of them to travel seamlessly without delays.

As the Department of Health, we want all medical travel passengers to travel without additional stresses. If the patients have physical disabilities, or they require an oxygen tank or a breather, then these must be made available. This is to ensure their safety during their flights, as we know that certain medical supplies are not readily available.

We also know the specialist they have an appointment with, or the surgeon, if they are not available, then the patient needs to undergo medical travel to reach the specialist and Nunavummiut face that reality.

(interpretation ends) Regarding the request for oxygen, Health is monitoring all requests for oxygen closely and ensuring that contractors are acting on oxygen requests. As the member mentioned, there have been instances of individuals being denied boarding as no tank was available. Health is following up on these matters and it is a matter that we take very seriously. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, this area requires further improvement, and cleaning up the process, which is obvious.

Although you answered part of the question, nonetheless, we need to let the listening audience hear and understand the issues as they may need to go on medical travel, along with the members here. It is good to hear about rectifications and improvements, so it seems plausible to hear this again, so I will just continue.

In conclusion, and in English (interpretation ends) throughout the pandemic, this government provided significant funding to the airlines to keep them in the air. It is important that our leaders now take the opportunity to voice our needs and concerns and make sure that the airlines are listening and responding.

Mr. Speaker, this needs attention. Please start showing respect and support. (interpretation) This is something I really wish to see more progress as corrections can be easily made, and I ask you to wake up the medical travel staff to these difficulties, and to enforce that, minister. Let me add this as well.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to reporting back to this House on the outcomes of his conversations and negotiations with northern airlines on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of committing to reporting back to the House, I can commit to reviewing what I can share with the House and I can commit to being as transparent as possible with this House and with the members. However, I can't commit to sharing all the information that's exchanged between the airlines and my department.

The Department of Health has ongoing communications, weekly meetings with Canadian North officials to discuss service levels issues and implement all contract items. As well, I should mention that there are several other government departments that are involved in the administration of the medical and duty travel contracts, and those are the Departments of Finance, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Community and Government Services, and Economic Development and Transportation. As Health, we do work with our colleagues in terms of administering that contract, which is very important to many people in this territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 205 – 6(2): Caribou Management**

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister who I wish to query with my questions is the (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment (interpretation) regarding the concerns held by the caribou hunters especially.

The minister probably knows that your workers in Nunavut must work with the wildlife board which met in Iqaluit this past June of this year, and I will now switch to English to pose my question.

(interpretation ends) One of the agenda items for the meeting was a proposal by the federal Department of Environment to change the status of the Dolphin and Union caribou from special concern to endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*.

Can the minister confirm what position the board made on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The meeting has currently proceeded. (interpretation ends) For the Dolphin and Union, I'm just trying to go through my notes quickly. From what I understand the NWMB meeting, what they recommended is what we adopted for this particular herd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On June 22, 2022, the minister issued an announcement regarding a meeting that he hosted. Can the minister confirm the decisions that were made at the meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, the last meeting was held in June, where we met with the representatives of the GNWT, us representing GN as well as Inuit organizations as well as the indigenous people from their territory, where we discussed common concerns held by the different groups, focussing on the caribou harvested by their communities, as well as our communities. They also harvest from the same herds, so the discussion centred on the careful management of these herds, and with that our focus, we met with them and went over plans that the NWT has a different work program. We have been asked by their HTO to look at ways to support the HTO in a more clarified manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends): As the Minister will recall I have previously raised the issue of wolf predation and the Department's Wolf Sample Program. Can the Minister provide an update on the changes are being made to this important program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Member for continually asking on this particular subject and I applaud the community for making couple of the communities for making recommendations for me to consider and that's one of that I am before me and something that I've instructed my department to start working on in terms of adjusting our policies and adjusting our program that's geared towards those communities. And those that are impacted by caribou management where there's concern of caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 206 – 6(2): Marine Infrastructure Iqaluit Operational Plan**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question today to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation is regarding from his Ministers' Statement earlier today. Mr. Speaker, on the bottom of the very first page, I'll quote "In Iqaluit the marine facilities are now substantially complete and it'll be ready for community use in the summer of 2023".

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister will be expecting this question. I will ask him to indulge me a little bit as I have received a few messages already on the description of substantially complete so, I would appreciate it if you include in his response to my question of what is the Operation Plan to manage the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Speaker I want to thank the Member for continually questioning me on this even outside of this House and I applaud that and that something we are working on as a department. This is for the Operation side this for it now that it is completed or substantially completed, the work has to for the Operations and Maintenance side that work we have been trying to work to try and get the policies and procedures in place. That one is still under works and once it is done, I will definitely share that with Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the partial response. Mr. Speaker, again just with the topic of substantially completed just for the people that are viewing that don't understand what that term is. That means the project has been completed to a point the keys are handed over the owner of the facility which is the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker this project was funding was announced in July of 2015. Over 7 years ago. Mr. Speaker, the Minister was questioned by myself and another one of my colleagues here on June 3 and 7 respectively. At that time, the Minister and I'll quote



from the Hansard, “I really understand the urgency and I share that with my colleague when I was asking him on the operation plan for the facility”.

Mr. Speaker, does the Department have a work schedule in place to come to such a plan where stakeholders involved in these discussions, the sealift carriers, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, local Iqaluit hauling contractors. Have they been consulted by the department in establishing this plan?

Mr. Speaker, all those entities that I mentioned have a key understanding of operations and their knowledge and experience would be very beneficial to developing a plan. I will ask the minister: have those stakeholders been consulted and what is the work schedule in place to come up with an operation plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This spring when I said that the work for that was getting done, we hired a consultant to do the bulk of the work to try to start consulting with the stakeholders. That same firm also does have capacity issues, as we do within our own department, and that has been very challenging for our department in terms of trying to get that work done, but I have given strong directions to my staff to get this done and that we do need that timeline. That timeline is that we need to get this operational by the summer of 2023. That has given us that time frame that’s going to allow for that work to get done.

As it progresses, I will stay transparent to this House and to the members on what progress has taken place. I thank the members for questioning me on this topic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be following this project very closely.

Mr. Speaker, as I had mentioned earlier, this project was announced, the funding was announced in 2015. Construction started about four years ago. Mr. Speaker, it was raised in this House five months ago on how important that this piece of infrastructure has now been sitting there... . From what I understand, the substantial completion was completed about six weeks ago, which very well could have included usage of that facility during this shipping season.

Mr. Speaker, I’m at a loss to explain, over the four years of construction and since then, why an operational plan wasn’t in the focus of the department. I can’t explain how that could come about. I will have my final question. When we talk about operating costs, docking fees, security, and those types of things, no matter under what management plan there is, those services will need to be provided to shippers and local contractors picking up goods. What types of costs are going to be associated with those types of services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are the very things that we're trying to get work done for the 2023 season and to get it done. To get it from substantial completion to putting a ship right now did not make sense for this season because we did have the substantial completion six weeks ago, but in order for it to be operational, shipping companies need to be in the area. Right now they're currently in the MOT beach and to disrupt that level was not feasible for us, so that's why we're focused on getting this operational in 2023. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 207 – 6(2): Food Insecurity Crisis**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, in my member's statement I provided some very real examples of how food insecurity is affecting our constituents. Although I am asking the Minister of Family Services a specific question about specific initiatives under that department's mandate, it should be clear to all of us that this issue must be faced by the entire government.

I would like to thank the members from Amittuq and Aivilik for their earlier questions, and I would just like to look for a little bit more detail, if possible, in some of the responses that were received.

Can the minister provide an overview of what reforms to the Income Assistance Program are currently being considered that will directly address the issue of food insecurity across Nunavut? The minister earlier stated that there's an upcoming report due. I would just like some more detailed information so that we can gain a better understanding of what's currently being considered to address this very important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking further questions on that. (interpretation ends) In terms of income assistance benefits that we provide to our clients, the benefit that we do provide is the one that we are looking at, at this time, and like I had mentioned, that program itself... . We will have a better response in that in the new year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming that that response is related to the final report and recommendations of the scheduled review of the results of the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study.

Will the minister commit to providing members of this House with a copy of the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study when it is completed in March, as stated earlier, and specifically, will the minister commit to addressing any recommendations in the study that directly relate to the issue of food insecurity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for that supplementary question. (interpretation ends) I do apologize for the other day when I had stated that the report would be done in December. That was a misunderstanding. That was the draft report that is due in December, but the final report should be complete by the end of March 2023. In that report it will help us to better understand what gaps there are and what more supports we need to bring forward, especially in the field of income assistance benefits. We will provide whatever information we can provide from that report to the House from that report. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the minister was actually making a commitment to provide the results of that study and a report based on that study.

Mr. Speaker, the department's Policy Reduction Division provides support to the Nunavut Food Security Coalition and provides funding for community-based food security initiatives. We heard a little bit earlier today about some of the endeavours that Family Services has undertaken to communicate with community-based organizations, whether they be hamlets or volunteer organizations related to funding.

I would just like, again, some more information and I would like the minister to describe what specific steps have been taken to increase the level of funding and support being provided to food centres to help them meet the rapidly rising demand for food and meals in all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. I have to emphasize too that it's not just the Department of Family Services nor the Poverty Reduction Division that has to continue researching and advocating for more supports and programs outside of this government. I have to mention that we do continue working with the federal government as well as other departments that provide financial supports to community offices like the hamlets, food banks, and HTOs.

During the COVID period, we did provide more supports to, like I had mentioned, different community initiatives or operations that do provide food security, as well as breakfast programs that are offered by Health, as well as HTO supports that are under our department, as well as the economic development, but in terms of how we're going to be

continuing to provide those kinds of supports or how much money we provide under those, it really depends on what division or applications the departments have received.

Under the homelessness initiatives, of course that goes under what supports we do provide. (interpretation) I'm getting confused. (interpretation ends) The community initiatives that we do provide, like I mentioned, it really depends on what initiatives are under the programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members, be aware that the time allotted for question period is now over. 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. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. David Akeeagok.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 052 – 6(2): 2019-2020 and 2020-21 Tourism Report**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 Tourism Report.

Mr. Speaker, I will provide the Inuktitut version of the report at a later date as the Inuktitut translation is not completed yet, but I wanted to present this to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

#### **Tabled Document 053 – 6(2): Photographs of Chesterfield Inlet Airport Terminal Building**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table today a series of photographs of the Chesterfield Inlet Airport Terminal Building which highlight the urgent need for a new facility.

I will have questions for the appropriate minister on this issue and I encourage all members to review these photos with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Tabled Document 054 – 6(2): Photographs of Food Vouchers for First Nations and Inuit Medical Clients in Winnipeg**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table copies of food vouchers that are provided to individuals who are travelling to receive medical services in Winnipeg.

It has always been my understanding that costs for travel and accommodation are covered for Inuit and First Nations under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program on an equal basis.

However, it is quite clear from these vouchers that this is not the case. The amount of money to purchase a dinner appears to be considerably less for Inuit than it is for First Nations individuals.

I hope the government will take the time to review this inequity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:45 and Committee resumed at 16:09*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Hickes): Thank you, members, minister, and people who are here. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 8 and 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 2022-23 capital main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Health and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. 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. Minister Joanasie, do you have officials that you would like to appear before the committee?

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do, if you'll allow. Thank you.

**Chairman:** We'll soon find out. Does the committee agree to let the minister and his officials appear before you?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

Mr. Chairman, before we get started today, I'd like to provide some clarification and responses to questions raised yesterday regarding the status of integrated community sustainability plans for the current year, as well as projects currently approved for planning.

Yesterday I provided a list of municipalities who had submitted an integrated community sustainability plans, and the list I had provided was for 2021-22 submission year, and was the most current information available. However, yesterday October 31, was the deadline for municipalities to submit their plans to the department. The total number of submissions had not yet been confirmed. Today, I am able to confirm that as of yesterday's deadline, nine of 24 municipalities had submitted updated integrated community sustainability plans for review.

Several other communities have submitted in-progress of these plans, and my department extended the submission deadline until November 14, 2022, this extension will provide my department will additional time to work with communities to ensure they complete their submissions.

On planning projects, yesterday, receiving a series of questions regarding the status of projects currently approved for planning that were listed in the correspondence that I shared with members on October 18, 2022. I would like to clarify that my department managing this capital planning budget on behalf of Government of Nunavut departments, and each year funding identified within this line item is a sign to advance the necessary components of the planning process required to develop a business case, so that projects can be brought forward into design. Not all projects that are approved for planning will

be selected for proceed to design and construction. However, in order for a project to proceed, full planning must be completed.

That is why this year, despite not adding new projects to the planning stage, my department is requesting to continue and complete the studies on existing projects that are either not finished, or need to update due to changing program requirements, market, and environmental conditions. Should we forward without having the funds available, there is considerable risk of future projects being delayed until the planning can be completed.

I recognize again that members are particularly interested in this line item, and I'm committed to provide additional details to the committee on how this funding is administered to ensure that projects are proceeding to the planning stage for future use. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, for that update, Mr. Joanasie. I know there were a number of questions on some of those topics yesterday.

Just to remind members that we're at Community and Government Services, Local Government Services, \$45,209,000. This is still on page J-3. This is still the first page of the department, so I will ask members to keep your preambles short and the minister to please respond to questions succinctly and directly.

The next name I have on my list: Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister, Mr. Seeley, and Ms. Hickey. I just wanted to congratulate the Department of Community and Government Services in working with all the departments in putting together this year's capital estimates, but I would like to note that the current Vote 2 capital request of \$321 million, I believe, is a new record for the GN, that coupled with \$175 million in third-party funding brings up the capital plan for this upcoming fiscal to \$496 million.

I would also like to note that this past sitting we did pass capital supp for the carryover of capital funds of \$151 million for 140 projects and I believe that is also a new record.

Mr. Chairman, I hope you will allow me. The question is sort of borderline on O&M, but it is very much correlated and related to this capital budget.

I do truly wish the Department of Community and Government Services all the luck in accomplishing these capital projects, but I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide us with some information about the status of the Capital Projects Division and the Technical Services Division which will have a major role in ensuring that these capital projects proceed in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. That dives right into the nitty gritty of it, so if you will allow my deputy to respond on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley, please proceed.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Our infrastructure branch is responsible for the planning as well the overall project management of the capital projects across government. We have recently hired two new regional directors: one for the Kivalliq and the other for the Qikiqtani region; one in Rankin and one in Pond Inlet. In addition to that we do have of course our TSD and capital planning team here in Iqaluit. We also have recruitments underway, actively, for the Cambridge Bay regional director as well as a variety of project managers that that correspond with the increased number of projects that we've got on the list to deliver on. So a couple of key recruitments are bolstering our capacity to manage these projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that, Mr. Seeley. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Seeley, for that response. In relation to the capital plan there is a significant number major capital projects that are in the works. Again, this line of question is going to very borderline in relation to O&M, but as the Department of Community and Government Services is responsible for the capital plan process and the development of capital projects, it is also responsible for utilities management, paying the bills for all the government assets; the power bills and the fuel bills and the water bills.

Looking at the current capital plan with major projects such as the Aaqqigiarvik Correctional Facility with Justice and four major projects with the Department of Education, three major projects with Health with the long-term recovery centre, long-term care facility, and a replacement health centre. The list goes on and on.

I was wondering: with all of those major projects, how much of an incremental impact will that have on the amount CGS pays for the utilities management? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you. Yes, when we're planning projects moving forward, that is encompassed and built into the process of how much additional utilities the buildings are set up for. This is also keeping in mind that we do have projects around making our buildings more efficient, so that also plays a part in minimizing our facilities being higher utility rates, if that answers the member's question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I do appreciate the efforts that CGS has been making in increasing the standards of increasing the heat retention and energy efficiency of building designs, but one issue that I have been following closely over the last number of years is the incremental O&M that is included



in the substantiation sheets. Some of these substantiation sheets do include substantial increases to energy costs, such as half a million dollars for any given major project. However, other substantiation sheets, which also are for major projects, do not include those incremental utility costs.

I was wondering if the minister would be able to follow up with the committee with a list of breakdown of all the capital projects that are in either the final stages or cost estimate A or cost estimate B with a listing of all the incremental O&M costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. You raised a very good issue that in the past we've had to struggle with projects across the territory, some communities due to electrical capacities, so that's a very good point. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. We will take the comments and we will consider this on a go-forward basis. We do also factor in other additional O&M costs, such as for a water treatment plant, the operators, for example, training and those other types of components. I'm willing to come back to the committee on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for committing to provide information to the committee on the incremental costs of all of our major projects at the construction phase.

This moves on to my next line of questioning, which is something that I have brought up almost every year in relation to our increased O&M costs for capital projects. The Department of CGS has been increasing their utilities budget every year, and last year the budget increased by a million dollars to cover the additional costs of these new capital projects that are going online.

However, every year I have asked the same question: how many of these major projects which have a forecasted cost of like half a million dollar electricity consumption in a given year? Of those major projects, how many are incorporating alternative energy initiatives to reduce that O&M cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. On certain projects we did try to incorporate alternative energy sources and where it's not so cost-prohibitive, but this is something that we will continue to tap into as necessary and new technologies are coming forward, so we continue to monitor what's available and implement what's feasible here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Next line of questioning, of this long list of major capital projects, how many does the Department of Community and Government Services conduct cost-benefit analysis to determine whether or not to incorporate alternative energy into the project designs itself? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. Part of the design of a project is looking at how alternative energy can be used and, for example, the insulation and the specifications of the building. This is something that we continue to try to have a good understanding of; it's such a very technical part of the capital planning process. I appreciate the member's questioning on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to rephrase that question. There are several projects in the current capital plan that include projected electrical consumption in excess of half a million dollars a year. Of the current list of projects, how many did the Department of Community and Government Services conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether or not to incorporate alternative energy projects, such as wind or solar? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. All of these projects, as part of the planning, it takes into account the energy modelling, I believe it's the phrase used in this sector. It's all of them that go through that in the planning phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. We're running low on time, so I'll keep this very short.

Would the minister be able to commit to providing the committee of an example of one of those energy modelling... ? I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I'm getting tired. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman:** Thank you. I think I know where you're going here. Basically you want to make sure that the formula that's used or the procedure that's used to be able to do that analysis and in addition, I think you had asked a question earlier and you asked for how many projects were incorporating alternative energy. If I recall correctly, I don't believe it was answered. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Sorry and apologies, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can come back to the committee on the energy modeling and what kind of benefit that brings forth to a project. Additionally, maybe if you'll have my deputy maybe speak a bit around the breakdown of what projects the Chair had extended the question to, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The projects identified in this year's bill, for the most part, wastewater projects don't necessarily lend themselves solar power or wind generation directly for backup in the same way that stand alone assets do. To the minister's earlier comments, energy efficiency and energy modelling is just part of the design of buildings; finding where efficiencies on which way the windows are going to face, right down to the foundation and any amount of insulation and types of insulation for a building is built into any standalone or vertical asset.

For things like utilidor or water treatment plants, there are opportunities to have supplemental energy if it is wind or solar built into the design, and those energy audits are done and incorporated into the planning and design to see what the turnaround on investment might be depending on the asset class.

As the minister has already committed to providing an example of the energy modelling for, I guess, a type of asset, we would be happy to provide that. As far as the actual buildings being planned, designed and built, with alternative energy built into the building, we don't maintain a full report on that, however we do offer a standalone contribution program for municipalities; the Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund to incorporate things like photovoltaic or wind into their energy into their buildings. There are a variety of energy management programs I think including within the bill. As well, we would be happy to provide any specific data that you are interested in. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Maybe if I could make a suggestion, it might be worthwhile to use a couple of different sized projects to be able to see the scope. I think what the member is looking for is a kind of a cost benefit analysis of adding alternative energy projects within an infrastructure, versus not, what electricity rates would be with and without and the capital costs, just to simplify what the department will be providing to the committee.

I see that Mr. Lightstone nodded his head, so Mr. Lightstone, do you have any further questions?

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You'd hit my question bang on. I'd like to move onto my next line of questioning and it's in relation to the solid waste bundles. Looking at page 2 of each of the substantiation sheets, it indicates that a waste audit was conducted in each community to estimate how much waste is generated. I was surprised to learn that the City of Iqaluit produces 20 tons of waste per day and I was wondering if the minister would be able to provide some of the examples of the waste audits that has been conducted per community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, there were audits on 13 communities, so there are three bundles and we can provide a copy of an example of one these audits, there is none for Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. For those 13 communities where a waste audit was conducted, will the minister be able to provide us with how much estimated waste those communities produce, each specific community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** And Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Moving on to my next line of questioning, the substantiation sheet also indicates that the next phase of the project is to develop a business case to determine improvements for solid waste management and to extend the life of the current solid waste sites.

When the city indicated that it creates 20 tonnes of waste per day, it incorporated waste reduction and diversion initiatives into the new solid waste facility that is currently under construction. I was wondering if the department has proceeded with developing these business cases to create waste reduction and diversion initiatives to extend the life of these solid waste facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at doing regionalized studies around solid waste management. With that along with the business case that we will be coming forward with, this is also encompassing the standards for solid waste which also constantly change. At this time we need to try to meet these higher and higher. With that, the projects that we're trying to proceed with are in different stages, but the list of communities that we do have are in the bundles. There is some estimation on costing and we have also found out that the estimated pricing for either expanding or building a new solid waste facility is going to be much greater than financial resources at this time.

There are features such as hazardous waste and metal backhauling programs, waste management, and buildings. There are equipment, stations, and attendant structures that would be accessed on a community-by-community basis. These are encompassing quite a bit of work that still needs to be done, but we want to get it done nonetheless. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for recognizing me a second time. I just want a bit of clarification on stuff from here. We're all in possession of a letter that the minister wrote to all the members here. It's titled "No new projects going into planning." This is about one and a half million dollars planning money, which is not a huge amount. It says that "No new projects will be added to the planning envelope so that the monies approved will be used on the existing projects."

The last part of the letter says all the projects that they plan to spend the money on. I have counted them. There are 41 projects in total and some of these are not in the five-year capital plan. Can I just get an explanation of why or how they're going to spend planning money on projects that are not even in the five-year capital plan? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As past practice has been, projects had been identified to enter into the planning phase and so those have compiled into that list that we shared with the committee. For now, we want to stick with not adding anything new to that planning list, but we continue to work those behind into that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Either I didn't hear or I didn't make myself understand. My question was: why did they plan to do studies on projects that are not in the five-year capital plan? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is when it goes before into the capital plan, we need to figure out if it's feasible to get that process done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. I think it might be easier during some of your responses... . The labelling on planning seems to be the confusion. There's preplanning and then there's planning, and you have answered a couple of questions using just the term "planning" when I think you meant "preplanning." I think it's confusing members a little bit. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question I have arises from the minister's response to one of the members. When the minister was asked which planning studies have not yet started, the minister replied, "All have started." Just a clarification then, all 41 of these projects' planning or preplanning studies have started. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When these projects enter the preplanning, there is some level of initial work that gets done. These projects that are in the preplanning stage are also, of course, in different stages. Some are either preliminary and/or some are further advanced and everything in between. Some of them are very initial versus some are further advanced in the planning stages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going on to the next question that one of our members asked, which planning studies are behind schedule, the minister stated that he didn't know. Is that still the minister's response, or does he know now that he has had a day to look into it? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and apologies. It's kind of difficult to pinpoint which project is at which stage because, depending on how far along where it has been going through the planning process and whether or not there was a timeline set, those are on a case-by-case basis. We're getting 41 different projects and some projects are multi-community. The specifics are quite hard to pinpoint exactly this is as far along as it should be, so I can't specify which project is behind schedule in the preplanning stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next to last question that was asked, which planning studies are over-budget and the minister replied none. All projects have started. None are over-budget. Why is there money being requested if they've all started and none of them are over-budget? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The envelope for \$1.5 million, the different projects that are being pre-planned. They're at different stages, as I mentioned, and we did share with members an example of what goes into the pre-planning of a project, including such things as geo-technical investigations, topography surveys, serviceability, constructive ability reports, there are legal survey done, architectural engineering support for business case, there are multiple parts to that. I had indicated that there has been some projects that are very preliminary. So there are minimal costs that have been done on those. So that's why they are requesting for a bit more money to complete the pre-planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since all the pre-planning or planning have started, will they all be completed by the end of the fiscal year, up to the budget year that we're talking about? Not this one, but the one we're approving. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we won't be able to get the pre-planning work done that's been identified, but depending on each client department that we're working with, and which project that they'll pushing forward as well. Depending on where they're at, we hope to get as much as we can. We don't anticipate completing all the work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a completely different matter, we all remember, in fact on August 12, 2021, the federal department of Crown and Indigenous Relationships and Northern Affairs announced that they had \$517.8 million available for shovel-ready infrastructure projects for Inuit communities. I'm not sure how much of that would be earmarked for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or the Government of Nunavut, within Nunavut, but this funding was announced to help close the infrastructure gap.

I would just like to know to what extent is the Government of Nunavut is working with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Kanatami to identify specific project that might, or could, or should go ahead within Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just overall any infrastructure dollars put towards Nunavut is a good thing. We want to ensure that if there is money being identified towards anything, or what have you, we're all for that. We know that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has set up a committee that is dealing with infrastructure and housing. I've had some discussions with Vice President James Eetoolook a bit on this front.

In terms of the official level maybe if you'll have my deputy provide a description of what the working level has been between Inuit organizations on infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq. My apologies, Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the members question about the level of operational level engagement, realignment of infrastructure priorities, over the past uyear we've been meeting quite regularly with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as well as some of the regional Inuit organizations, both to talk about opportunities on existing projects or initiatives that we know are underway. As well as just to talk about what the

priorities are and what opportunities for alignment could exist and where there are opportunities to have that alignment and collaboration.

There are some working groups and task groups that are investigating those options a little bit more closely. Some of examples of that are related to things like housing and I guess that interface between land development and the municipalities as well as water access and that network of community needs serving Nunavummiut and Inuit. There are a number of different working groups and quite recently there are working groups both within the GN interdepartmentally, infrastructure being led jointly by NHC and CGS with other partner departments participating.

We do have a feedback loop that we're building in with the regional Inuit organizations and NTI as well to ensure that we are aligning our priorities and where there is an opportunity to make better use of our resources to do it together, so quite a bit of activity in that area. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the official said, there's been talking and quite a bit of activity, there's been a lot of meetings going. The minister said he'd had some meetings with the vice president and it's been over a year since the announcement was made. What kind of money are we talking here? It must be broken down, how much Nunavut's share is going to be. That has to have been figured out by now. I know it's not his budget- but has the minister been told? Or has the official, that had many meeting on many occasions, been told how much money will be earmarked for Nunavut? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is Inuit organization specific funding and I believe it has been shared publicly through the Inuit orgs, maybe something worth it to look up.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my last question, but this will be I guess: the minister says we can look it up on the Inuit org's website, does that mean the minister never looked it up to see how much Nunavut's share was, on the website? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Off my memory, I believe Nunavut's share is in the tune of \$250 million, around there, give or take. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Next name I have on my list, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Janet Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for recognizing me again. Welcome back minister and your officials. Just a quick note of gratitude to first responders in



Iqaluit, I understand there was an incident where someone was in distress this afternoon, in my riding, and police were called and arrived very quickly and supported the person who was in distress and apparently nobody was injured. So, I just want to extend my appreciation and thanks that somebody is getting some extra help today.

And, with that, I'll go back one of my last questions to you Minister on Wednesday. I asked about the status of the procurement process for the Katittuq Nunavut Undersea Fibre Optic Cable System and you indicated that it was still under evaluation and that you would share information when it was appropriate.

So, I've looked up the Proposal Register, I see that there are 3 proponents who have put in bids. I just wonder if you can talk to us about the evaluation process that will be undertaken. This is a highly technical project and you know that it is not only technical in the terms of you know, sensitive electronics. It is also very technical in terms of the potential impact on the marine mammals and other undersea wildlife. And, I'd just like to hear from you Minister what the expertise is, what is the team made up of in terms of reviewing these proposals and making this very important decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and if you'll allow the Deputy to respond on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Go ahead Mr. Seeley please.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, thank you for the question on this important project. So, this is a open procurement process and that it hasn't been closed or awarded yet. To the Member's question on the evaluation, as with any of our Public Procurement Processes it is about evaluating submissions from eligible proponents in relation to what was requested. So, it that question of comparison between what was submitted and what was detailed in the public tender. Our department has been working with variety of industry leading contractors in the development of both the initial tender and in the evaluation. The evaluation will be lead through CGS Procurement. Through our Public Procurement shop with industry experts assisting and providing some additional technical oversight and that is from start to finish. In recognizing the shire magnitude of this project and how important it is that we get it right. I thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologizes on the Proposal Register its list the closing date time and location is October 16, 2022. So, I was confused by that. I assumed that it had closed. And, I'm happy to hear that there is technical expertise engaged or experts engaged in this evaluation process. And, hearing that this is still open, I wonder if you can tell us a timeline of when the decisions will be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thanks again Mr. Chairman. Maybe if you will allow the Deputy to clarify on what he met by the comments. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go ahead Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you minister. I apologize. I'll clarify. The tender has closed as the documents have been submitted. It's the review process that is still open and underway, which is to say a decision has not been made. Given the scope of this project and the technical elements of it, the review process we expect to be complete and in a position hopefully to award in 2023. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that timeline, and I appreciate the clarification, I was a little bit confused there; in March 2022 Nunavut Tunngavik publically called on the Government of Nunavut to reconsider its plans to bring fiber to Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet and engage with NTI on how to maximize the impact of infrastructure investments to create an expanded network to improve broadband connection for as many Inuit communities as possible. I'm wondering if you can tell us what response your department provided to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on that ask.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thanks, Mr. Chairman. If you will again allow Deputy Seeley to respond.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. In fact we did engage with Nunavut Tunngavik re: a fiber project to Iqaluit and did enter into a non-disclosure agreement with that group in relation to that project. That is the extent of that agreement. It's a non-disclosure agreement, which is to say that the information on our project was made readily available to NTI. Similarly on other projects into Nunavut, we have had some outreach with NTI and/or other regional Inuit organizations regarding other fiber projects, but CGS is not party to any other agreements related to those fiber projects they are undertaking, or at least not the signatory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and you for that response, Mr. Seeley. You seem to have anticipated my follow up question and I appreciate know that there is in fact some work being done with NTI, even if you are unable to share that at this point.

On the issue of communications technology, infrastructure upgrades, during the Assembly's consideration of the department's 2021-22 capital estimates, your predecessor's opening comments to the Committee of the Whole indicated that the department was proposing funding of \$3.5 million for essential communication technology infrastructure upgrades, including the replacement of basic GN communications hardware and systems that are obsolete and cannot be upgraded. Specifically this funding is being used to connect any remaining GN buildings with municipal fibre in all 25 communities. Upon completion of this project, all GN buildings will be interconnected through fiber and prepared for connection to fibre or low-earth orbiting satellites.

As of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a seven-year lifecycle replenishment strategy for all communication technology infrastructure. That has been developed; all standards, as set by our Information Management Division.

For the fiscal year 2023-24, we're requesting \$3.5 million on an annual basis to support the evergreening of our computer network system on what the member had mentioned. This includes upgrades of services as follows: \$350,000 for community data centre generators; \$750,000 for Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay data centre generators; \$1,900,000 for local area network room in evergreening; as well as \$500,000 on new technology pilots. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you answered another two of my follow-up questions in that response. I'm just looking on our sheet here. There is a reference here, just give me a moment find it. Let's see if I can remember off the top of my head.

I believe there was a reference to additional upgrades to computer programs. I am wondering if there is a plan to update MEDITECH, specifically in the communities that are underserved that are not centrally located that successfully has been asked of in MEDITECH. I am wondering if there is a plan to update MEDITECH in underserved communities, if so, in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back a bit to my response. So for the fibre connection within communities that connects to satellites. Of course, we don't have fibre connecting to southern Canada. That project is underway. What our core network and our information management, and information technology division provides the system to allow our client departments to serve as their clients. This would support

MEDITECH and other databases as such, as designed by client departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't been able to find those questions I had. However, I do wonder how many, if there are plans to help your client departments upgrade different programs to allow their teams to access information in order to do with work. Is there a corresponding update of the equipment required to run specific programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** My apologies. Maybe if you'll allow my deputy to elaborate on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. So read the last mile fibre project that is complete within the scope of the project that we have been running and that those assets are now all connected to what we refer to as the last mile and that's the last mile of fibre locally within each of those networks.

As far as the upgrades to terminals and access points for client departments, those service departments in the example the member used, it would be Health that would be responsible for the ever-greening of that access point, which is to say the desktop terminal that they might be using.

The infrastructure upstream from that leading back to the server and the satellite link and the various switches and other connectivity equipment, that's the work that we do and that's what the CITI funding is for. This work is not done. It is repeatedly going to be ever-greened and replaced in the same way that piping on a water system is, or storage tanks on fuel storage would be. They're going to consistently need to be replaced because they do wear out.

As we do bring on more and more service applications from client departments, the capacity needs to increase as well for the storage of the files and the transmission, and hopefully the end number of users that are going to be accessing them, but the end-user terminal piece is managed by the client department within their respective capital budgets. The items upstream from that and the servers and the switches, that's the work that we do at CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Seeley. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have agreed not to use acronyms, I think. Could you just explain ever-greening to the listening audience who may not catch what

“ever-greening” is referring to? Once you have done that, minister, if you could talk to us as well about how CGS is working with Qulliq Energy to ensure that communities have the power capacity to run this various equipment as well as what’s in place to protect loss of these upgraded equipment and services due to things like power surges. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for those. I’ll give an attempt on an “ever-greening” explanation. Basically it’s replacing computer equipment or anything that our information management and information technology, every workstation needs connectivity, so all that system, the wires, the equipment used to connect to the Internet to use MEDITECH or if we’re going to plug it in on that, it needs to be replaced and there’s a cycle for that. It’s the lifecycle of those equipment and materials. That’s just in a nutshell.

Also in relation to the power needs of our client departments and/or this equipment, we do try to consider, for example... I mean, every school has a generator and these data centres, for example, also require either some type of cooling system as sometimes they overheat, so they need to be kept in a well-placed environment. Those are factored in and also considered, but we try to ensure that our systems are good for power and the ever-greening process, part of this is that they can connect as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to go back to my question just revisiting the issue of the non-disclosure agreement that has been entered into with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated regarding the fibre network.

I don’t even know what day it is now, but we recently had the pleasure of having spent time with the access to information and privacy protection commissioner and in our discussions with the commissioner, and I apologize; I don’t have his exact wording in front of me. In those discussions, one of the things that he indicated to us is that our role and our right to access information from the Government of Nunavut as legislators supersedes the Government of Nunavut’s right to enter into non-disclosure agreements.

That’s a paraphrase and perhaps the Chair could correct me if I’m remembering this wrong. However, I do believe I’ve got it right and I would just like to encourage the minister to be open and transparent and give us as much information as possible and as much as we request, and I’ll give you an opportunity to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** You versed the commissioner’s comments pretty accurately, I believe, Ms. Brewster. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In listening here and there on the Information and Privacy Commissioner's public hearing with the committee, we do recognize around public disclosure and the public interest, what that means.

Also with that, we do as government, as part of our business with external parties, enter into such agreements as non-disclosure agreements. It is part of different business practices, so it's nothing new, I want to say. I think this is an area that we will continue to monitor in light of what the Information and Privacy Commissioner has brought out.

I think, on a go-forward basis too, this is an area, as an example, the substantiation sheets that members are privy to, it's something that aren't necessarily public, but I think it's an area that is worth looking at so that we would be able to provide status reports to the committee, I think, on what that non-disclosure agreement has been in terms of the working relationship behind the scenes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that response, minister. I think we all realize there are forums that are available to cabinet to inform the Regular Members' Caucus of ongoing issues and agreements that still protect the private purview of such an agreement.

Next name I have on my list: Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak about your department that is responsible for hamlets. You have a stake in supporting economic development and minor funding for the operations of hamlets. With that being the case, I would like to ask questions to you because we need to understand more.

(interpretation ends) As your department's proposed 2022-2023 capital estimates includes \$5.5 million in funding for the Municipal Mobile Equipment, the substantiation sheet for the project indicates that "discussions were recently held between the Department of Community and Government Services and Department of Finance and it was agreed to have future funding sourced from the Department of Community and Government Services" capital project as of 2023. When will an updated Municipal Mobile Equipment Program policy be finalized? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your question. As I recollect, the guideline was rectified in April of last year. As to when it will be reviewed and amended, if I remember correctly that happens every five years with respect to guidelines in terms of if changes are necessary or they need updating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I looked at that earlier. I didn't say my apologies, but I do understand it. However, the municipalities in the smaller communities in particular, you probably keep them abreast with information that I mentioned with regard to having to be probably communicated with.

My other question is (interpretation ends) your department's 2022-2023 capital estimate included, again, \$5.5 million in funding for the Municipal Mobile Equipment Program. How much of this funding has been spent to date? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. We do the mobile equipment policy, we've increased the total pot of funding in this line item, which used to be \$2.513 million and now it's \$5.5 million. Municipalities', through this funding program, funding levels have increased from \$250,000 to a maximum of \$400,000 per year. In terms of what's been spent to date: the entire budget.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may ask then, with the budget for this, as you acknowledged it needed increasing so it was increased. Where and how in any documentation would it be justified to increase because of the need in the community towards this. Is it because you haven't acknowledged it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. Mamianaq. The fund Municipal Equipment Program funding it has since 2021 has been increased to every community and this was changed to the policy to increase a maximum allowable. And, we did my department has corresponded with each and every municipality around those increases and this is partly one of the factors that was used to increase the funding was looking at the road length in percentage so, those were factored in to those process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and for explaining that Minister. I'd like to move onto another topic about arenas. For arena upgrades and I'd like to ask is (interpretation ends): Your Department's 2021-2022 Capital Estimates includes 1.221 million dollars in funding for arena upgrades. Your department's proposed 2023-2024 Capital Estimates do not include a specific funding for this arena upgrades. Why has this budget item been removed from your Department's Capital Estimates. Qujarnami Itsivautu.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): My apologies. The arenas hockey places, we're putting together a plan for different communities and up to now, the communities that we have made business cases for are Uqsuqtuq, Igluligarjuk and Ipikarjuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, those the 3 communities that are within the plan or that have put plans together are only 3 of them. There are probably many arenas in the communities and, some communities have too small arenas. I once witnessed they said that you could go play there if they follow the maximum allowable people in the building rule. Many of them, can't follow that rule and I have seen that myself and I was worried about it like what could happen.

In 2022-2023 capital estimates we're thinking about arena upgrades but I was to encourage that to go ahead, but I would like to move onto something else. I have another question that has to do with small capital. (interpretation ends) Your proposed 2023 capital estimates includes \$6.6 million in funding for small capital. I just wanted to point out a few questions to the minister. Your department's 2022-23 capital estimates include \$2 million in funding under the municipal capital block funding policy. Which projects have received to date under this budget? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's block funding, so they each get a specific amount, and again, we have also increased this funding by \$1 million if I remember correct. So basically we've doubled it. So every community should have an increase in the municipal capital block funding agreements. This funding pot can also be reserved and carried forward if they want to save money for either equipment or upgrades or renovation under assets, so that can be done using this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, my question now relates to some of the communities, who during a certain part of the year don't really operate many projects based on my experience working within the hamlet structures. I can speak to this based on past work, however, in looking at the proposed budget for 2022-23, is that correct? Is it 2023-24? Is it?

>> *Laughter*

Now, if a community hamlet expends all their budget funds, do you keep them informed or apprised of the fact that further funds are available that they can draw upon, which are funds for all the hamlets.



I believe you referred to that earlier, but I wonder if some communities do not use their allotted funds, or if their portion is not touched at all, are you able to let the other hamlets know of this ability to submit more proposals? Here I am referencing a surplus and prior to the fiscal year end of March 31? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That funding is just granted to the hamlets through a funding formula, and the other funds are through proposals. The hamlet submits an application or a proposal to us and if there is funding available because not many requests are received, then we encourage the hamlets to submit requests for additional funds. We encourage them to request additional funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask this question as well. (interpretation ends) Your department's 2022-23 capital estimates includes \$2.7 million in funding for minor capital and equipment building upgrades. As of today, what upgrades have been undertaken? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): I apologize. There are currently two proposed projects, (interpretation ends) fuel tank replacement (interpretation) in Grise Fiord and (interpretation ends) modern reservoir tank emergency (interpretation) in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee:** To your response, your department's proposed 2022-24 capital estimates include, again, \$2.7 million in funding for minor capital and equipment/building upgrades. What specific upgrades does your department plan to undertake for 2022-24? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. (interpretation ends) We will prioritize on if there are any emergencies that might come up, but assets that are most in need of either upgrades or replacement. This is in regard to repairs to CGS-owned facilities, repairs to water infrastructure, improvements to infrastructure like washroom upgrades, electrical and minor repairs, such as improving drainage, roof and door repairs and/or electrical upgrades, replacement to fuel tanks, and I already mentioned emergencies, so those do come up. This pot of funds is meant to help address those emergencies as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Another question that I have which really interests me also is for this year's capital for the year of 2022-23, capital estimates include \$1 million in funding for minor Petroleum Products Division projects and upgrades. As of today, what projects and upgrades have been undertaken? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) If you will allow my deputy to respond on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Petroleum Products Division's small capital is similar to what the minister just described how the CGS broader small capital fund is used toward and that is important maintenance to assets owned and operated by the Petroleum Products Division.

Examples of projects that have been undertaken this year include changes in Clyde River to allow for the storage and distribution of low-sulphur diesel in the community, in addition to jet-A fuel, based on some situations that arose there last year, in addition to some basic replacement of other aging equipment elsewhere, everything from the dispensers all the way up to the piping and some of the manifold work was happening on shore.

I think that the minister provided some information previously on some of the projects of interest that were undertaken by the Petroleum Products Division both under this fund as well as under some of the Vote 4 funding provided this year for the PPD keeping all the assets up and running. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister and Mr. Seeley. I realize I did allow some jumping back and forth to future pages that are upcoming in the budget process, but I thought it would save time later.

With that, before I go to my next name, I'm going to use my discretion and we will declare a 15-minute break and then we will return. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:40 and resumed at 17:59*

**Chairman:** Thanks, everyone. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Next name I have on my list: Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, minister and your officials. Welcome.

My line of questioning will be on the issue of safe drinking water. To my knowledge, we are dealing with \$31 million in drinking water. Correct me if I'm wrong, minister. I want to be crystal clear that I do clearly and thoroughly support all 25 Nunavut communities having access to safe drinking water.

Now, as the minister is aware, there are boil water advisories for both of my constituencies of Igloolik and Sanirajak. For Igloolik, it was July 13, 2022 a boil advisory was publicly put in, and for Sanirajak, to the best of my knowledge, I do believe it's still under boil water advisory. It's dated October 7.

In saying that, looking at these projects for water treatment upgrades, let's focus on this one subject of water treatment plant upgrades for Rankin Inlet. Now, have there ever been a public health advisory when it comes to boil advisory or is there any boil advisory for Rankin Inlet due to the fact that they're getting a water treatment plant upgrade? How many times has Rankin Inlet been put into boil advisory as of 2020 up to now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that level of detail, but just recognizing the Department of Health does issue those boil water advisories as and when necessary, but I just want to point out that my department, Community and Government Services, we have a number of communities that have water treatment plants that either need replacement and/or upgrades. That's informing our capital planning going forward and based on the needs across the territory. There is a significant need for Rankin Inlet at this time, which again is a Government of Nunavut asset.

I want to point back to one of the questions raised by our colleague. MLA Malliki for Aivilik asked which communities of the seven are earmarked for the \$31 million water and wastewater, and I made a list of five communities, if I recollect correctly. The list I did not include was Kugluktuk as well as Resolute Bay are also getting funding towards their water or wastewater needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does Community and Government Services take these public advisories as a priority when it comes to upgrading water treatment plants or replacing a water treatment plant? Is this a priority when it comes to these capital infrastructures to at least get an upgrade or get new infrastructure for my riding of Amittuq? Are they priorities for Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do look at every community and rank them accordingly, whether their source of water is sufficient, but also looking at the

treatment done to that water source before it gets distributed for consumption. There is a prioritized list looking at each community and of course they're very different, but also we try to prioritize which one is the most in need of repairs or replacement on the water infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have received concerns from my constituents that the water treatment infrastructure in both Sanirajak and Igloolik is in need of repair and replacement. As for this public health advisory, I do would recommend that advice would be a priority when it comes to clean water drinking. I probably can say it's a necessity not a luxury when it comes to clean drinking water.

Does Community and Government Services, what's the condition for both Igloolik and Sanirajak water treatment infrastructure? What are the ages there? Are they old? Are they new? If you can verify? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for those questions. I'll just start off with part of just recognizing that member brought up around boil water advisories, this is one factor in what our capital plans. We factor other information and we do other assessments based on other things, not just boil water advisories that come up, but also just in regard to his communities, I was fortunate to thank the member for inviting us to his constituency to visit Amittuq and got the chance to see firsthand the infrastructure in Igloolik and Sanirajak.

In terms of the detail of how old they are, maybe if you'll my deputy to give a little bit more detail on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The water treatment assets in Igloolik and Sanirajak are two very different matters. The Igloolik water treatment plant is only a couple of years old. The municipality took over the operational responsibility for that plant, I'm going to say, three years ago. It is a newer model plant. As with any treatment and process plant, it is going to require regular upgrades and engineer changes to deal with changes in the local water chemistry from the source water, and to remain compliant with the drinking water regulations.

In the case of Igloolik, that plant is designed to treat the seasonal turbidity issue that does lead to boil water advisories with some very fine cartridge filters. There is discussion on repairs to that plant, or upgrades to that plant to include additional treatment systems to ensure that there are less boil water advisories during those peak periods of seasonal runoff.

Sanirajak has older infrastructure, a much simpler system. It's easier to maintain, with lower operational costs. The source water didn't require as much treatment, or didn't have the same risk profile as Igloolik. So Igloolik's was replaced first, but there was additional work done in Sanirajak on the wastewater lagoon instead.

I do just want to point out that each of the assets for wastewater treatment in the territory, they are managed as part of a collective system, and is replaced on a priority basis, based on a fairly complex evaluation and risk on source water treatment mechanisms available, as well as the distribution mechanism used in the community.

So some very different systems with Sanirajak having a much older system and asset, but with much rigorous treatment required based on the quality of the source water in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Seeley for the detailed information. I'm glad to hear that Igloolik newer. Since hearing that Igloolik is two years and Sanirajak is more of an older model. Has there been a feasibility study done for the water treatment infrastructure for Sanirajak to get an upgrade or at least to get a new one. If the minister can clearly explain if there were any feasibility studies undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't done that yet and if we were to, we would have to go through the planning phase that we have discussed quite heavily in the last few Committee of the Whole appearances in the last few days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaernerck:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at these for 2023 and 2024, as there will be no new projects, can the minister agree with me that there will be a feasibility study for the community of Sanirajak when it comes to safe drinking water? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are normal processes that we would have to do a risk analysis and prioritize which communities would need that type of work or new upgrades to their facilities. We would consider Sanirajak as with any other community through the planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernerck.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's the current age for the water treatment plant upgrades in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 1970. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that quick response. 1970s, okay. Like I said, it's a necessity and not a luxury.

Moving forward, now the question is, the department's current business plan indicates that one of the priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal year is to "Work with partners and stakeholders to develop and deploy the Drinking Water Strategic Framework Action Plan." When will the action plan be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will give me a second.

My apologies. The first draft of the framework developed by the Drinking Water Working Group is complete and it will be submitted to the policy division and once that is complete, it will be to design and format the document prior to public release. The timeline is on track for the end of this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kaerner.

**Mr. Kaerner:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. With these new projects, I know they haven't started, but have any one of these projects been started yet or are they still waiting for something? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) If you will allow my deputy to respond on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Go ahead, please, Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each of these projects is at slightly different stages. In each of these cases, the municipalities do have drinking water treatment infrastructure. The replacements are all underway and there is existing infrastructure that will be upgraded and/or replaced.

In the case of Rankin Inlet, this is a multi-year plan to change the distribution system that is the utilidor, and then leading forward to the development of a water treatment plant, in addition to a mechanical wastewater treatment plant. In some of the other cases, it is replacement to existing infrastructure and/or upgrades.

Depending on what stage and if we're requesting funding to move forward into design, yes, they are already underway and the planning would be complete. If we are proceeding into requesting funding to move into construction, it would mean that the design phase is complete. Most of them are underway in one form or another, depending on interpretation of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're discussing, as you had stated, most of the projects are already started and we are discussing these with these capital projects that the Department of Community and Government Services is requesting for. I'm surprised that these upgrades have been started.

I'll leave that for now and let me focus on the arenas too, as the Uqqummiut MLA has touched base on that. What is the priority for the arena upgrades? Since Sanirajak's arena that badly needs repair and an upgrade, how does Community and Government Services prioritize when it comes to upgrading arenas or at least focus on upgrades when it comes to arenas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should have had it on the arena upgrades. Our Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund is, in prior years we have received applications for municipalities to either purchase or install solar panels for their arenas in support of energy efficiency and looking at leading technologies.

In 2020-21 arenas in Ikpiarjuk, Igloolik, and Pangnirtung all received funding towards that, but also for other projects that the department looks at for arenas, some are quite old and are in need of significant repair, some might be more minor touch-ups. Within the budget that we do have, we try to accommodate what's doable on a year-to-year basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kaernek.

**Mr. Kaernek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Sanirajak arena needs a repair very badly, and the Hamlet of Sanirajak has spent quite a bit of on the boiler. I would recommend that the department look into this as a priority due to the fact that our youth in Sanirajak... It's the only facility this time around. I recommend that the department look into this as a priority. That's just a comment and thank you for giving me a chance, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kaernek. We will go to the next name I have on my list: Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, Nunavummiut. Good evening, Minister Joanasie, Kyle, and Ms. Hickey.

I would like to update to my community that last month, October, that a new facility for the new municipal office has started. We are seeing drilling happening as we speak. My first question is with regard to your department's 2022-23 capital estimates that includes \$4,496,000 for the construction of a new municipal office in Sanikiluaq. How much of this funding has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you will give me a minute I'll try and dig that information out. \$2,046,000 has been spent if I'm not mistaken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. My next question is with regard to safe drinking water. There was a feasibility report that was submitted in 2019 and they found the possibility of two water supplies within the existing water source that was estimated to be \$14,601,758, and the other water source that was found eight kilometers south of Sanikiluaq was estimated to \$36,574,270. Based on your substantiation sheet, the new project is \$33,385,000. I'm wondering where that figure came from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figure is broken down on page 3 of 5 of the substantiation sheet. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. Earlier this summer in July 2022, the Government of Canada announced federal funding of \$2.7 million under the Green Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program towards planning of improved water and wastewater treatment in Arctic Bay, Arviat, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Sanikiluaq. As of today what is the status of these projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.



**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are still in the planning [phase] and there is \$1.8 million identified for the water treatment bundle for those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Joanasie. Moving onto a different topic under solid waste facility bundles. Earlier this year on March 29, 2022, your department issued a request for proposals, 2022-18-1, business case for solid waste facility upgrades. The request for proposals closed on April 26, 2022. A contract to perform this work was awarded to Dillon Consulting on August 4, 2022. The request for proposals concerned the 14 communities that are included in solid waste bundle 1 to 3. As of today, what is the status of this work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for those questions. The consultant, engineer, and project managers from my department have visited four communities of bundle 1. During these visits site inspections, aerial surveys and consultations with hamlets were undertaken. Dillon has plans to conduct site visits to the solid waste facilities in Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, and Pangnirtung in November, so this month, 2022. Delivery of a final business case report on bundle 1 is expected within this current fiscal year, whereas business case studies on bundles 2 and 3 would be completed in fiscal year 2023-24. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my next question, you can rule on whether it's operations and maintenance. There is an on-going issue as we speak right now that since October 24, the current Sanikiluaq dump is smoldering and has been smoking through the community. I am wondering, are there any ways to deal with those kinds of situations as they arise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this would be covered through the community's solid waste management plans, making sure that things are separated to the best of their abilities, and making sure that any combustible or flammable...that would be addressed through the municipality and not through this appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different topic, under the Municipal Parking Garage Program, your department's 2022-2023 capital estimates

included \$2 million in funding for new Municipal Parking Garage Program. How much of this funding has been spent to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Applications that have been approved are Chesterfield Inlet, \$231,569, that's for planning. Gjoa haven, \$231,569 and finally Sanikiluaq \$39,550. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. To a different topic under fire truck and fire hall replacements, how many communities in Nunavut require new fire halls? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to take a look at their Individual Community Integrated Sustainability Plans and do an assessment of which community would be prioritized. We don't have with us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Within the same line. In October of 2020, a former Minister of Community and Government Services provided a list of planning projects to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The list indicated that planning studies for new fire hall in Arviat and Whale Cove has been completed. Your Department's proposed 2023-2024 Capital Estimates do not include specific funding for fire hall replacements. What is the estimated cost to construct a new fire hall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, apologizes to the question before hand. We do have 5 communities that have identified a fire hall in their Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. Thanks to our Finance Services Director for that information. But, onto the last question on the estimated cost for a new fire hall, if you allow my Deputy to respond on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, go ahead Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost of developing a fire hall through to construction is determined through the planning and design phase. The class d estimates that we would have completed through planning, I would provide a fall class d estimate of what the total cost would be. Basically a cement patch garage with office space and additional shortage space. The last 2 fire halls were completed in Kugaaruk and Arctic

Bay. I am going to say that the total construction cost for those combined was a little bit more than I think it was around 12 million dollars based on my memory but they are relatively simple structure but the cost could really vary depending on the terrain that they are being built on and the size needed for a specific community but again that will be determined through the design process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jumping back to the new municipal office in Sanikiluaq. The Senior Administrative Officer had indicated that they applied for the Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund. I know it's early to say whether they have been approved. I was wondering to see if your department has received the application for that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're under the first review of the proposals and there would be a second intake once that review has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Qavvik.

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll end my question by just saying a comment that in Sanikiluaq that is a dire desperate situation for an arena upgrade because the building was built in 1992, and the condition needs lighting fixtures, there are no washroom in it, no running in it. The wellbeing of our youth is important and by building this infrastructure so our upgrade is not smaller communities, we can, at least, our young generation's future, just like Jordan Tootoo. That's all I'll have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase, did you want to respond to that.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you. No, I really appreciate the member's comments on that. Sports and recreation is a big part of our communities and our youth. Even just looking back to my youth, sports and traveling for activities and tournaments and that. So these facilities when we have them available for our youth. That has a very positive impact. I take those to heart and I wish we could fund every arena upgrade that we need. We will continue to keep those thoughts and prioritize communities where the most needs are, given our resources financially. Thanks for the comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Nutarak is the next name on my list.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, minister, and your officials. (interpretation ends) In October of 2020, your predecessor, the Minister of Community and Government Services, provided a list of planning projects to Members of the Legislative Assembly. The list indicated that a planning study for new parking garages in

Arviat, Baker Lake, Clyde River, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, and Pond Inlet were in progress. What was the result of this? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasia.

**Hon. David Joanasia:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member for those questions. If you'll allow my deputy to provide details. It was my predecessor, so it's kind of hard for me to answer. My memory is not that good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** It's okay, Minister Joanasia. I'm sure Mr. Seeley's is. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the letter that the member is referencing to a study of garage parking space in communities done around 2017-18. What that study entailed was a review of the total fleet size, so a number of vehicles that needed to be stored in a community, in relation to the total storage space available in that community. The outcome of that study was to rank the communities based on who needed indoor parking space the most. The outcome was that we realized that all communities, a very, very few, I think one or two, actually met the minimum standards. And parking garages were identified as a top priority need.

At that point planning studies were initiated or parking garages for communities in need were advanced. They remain within that planning stage. They are approved for planning. The next iteration on that was that we had to review developing parking garages, which are relatively simple municipal structures just for storing vehicles in. We had to compare and prioritize those against critical infrastructure, including wastewater, solid waste, hamlet offices that were damaged in storms, and things like arenas.

Very often those parking garages did not emerge to the top of the capital prioritization exercise. That was one of the catalysts for developing the municipal parking garage contribution program, which provides funding to municipalities to manage the design and construction of their own parking garages.

So as far as the status of the communities that the member listed, we can find out exactly what stages of the planning surveys have been completed and which studies have been completed, but I think that the shortest answer is that they are still in planning and did not escape the planning envelope into business cases that would have been brought forward for design funding here in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. I other question I wish to raise concerns on is regarding when you are at the design stage on a project, (interpretation ends) do you consult with the municipality? For instance, the new water treatment centre in Pond Inlet, will you or are you consulting with the municipality with the design, because they might have had ideas of how or where they wanted it to be? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** My apologies. The consultation starts within the planning phase, prior to the design occurring. That is when the municipalities do get engaged, but to the question around the design, a project is under design, there is opportunity for hamlets to also provide input. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak.

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this will be my last question. (interpretation ends) Your department's current business plan indicates one of its priorities for the 2022-23 fiscal is to work with partners and stakeholders to develop and deploy Drinking Water Strategic Framework Action Plan. When will the action plan be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly?  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We anticipate completing that within this fiscal year. I can't say whether or not it will be ready for tabling in the wintering sitting, but that work should be completed within the fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Nutarak. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to return to the previous topic regarding incorporating renewable energy technology on major capital projects, and more specifically, I would like to follow up on questions that I had asked during spring sitting.

Before CGS can connect any sort of alternative energy project or initiative to the power system, it must be negotiated through a commercial or institutional power producer agreement, so I would like to ask the minister if he would be able to provide an update on any discussions that are occurring between Community and Government Services and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you'll allow the deputy, he has worked on this on his level more so than I. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Please proceed, Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The Qulliq Energy Corporation and Community and Government Services do work quite closely together on a number of infrastructure and capital-related items.

Most recently, our discussions have been along opportunities to align fuel storage infrastructure to reduce duplication in capital construction costs and management, recognizing that the Qulliq Energy Corporation does burn diesel fuel and does need to store it. So, there are some efficiencies that we've identified in partnering on those storage sites.

The other collaboration that we've recently had with Qulliq Energy Corporation is in relation to the Arctic Energy Fund. Community and Government Services is the signatory on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and does work with the Qulliq Energy Corporation as the ultimate recipient for the replacement of power plants in places like Kugluktuk and Arctic Bay.

As far as energy efficiency for GN assets coming online, our two departments do work quite closely together on a number of initiatives, recognizing that we do use a lot of very sensitive equipment within the Information Management and Information Technology shop, and that we are the owner and operator of some very large assets located in every municipality in the territory.

As far as the opportunities for partnership on bringing new assets online and efficiencies in that area, I would say we would be in the very early stages of those discussions, but certainly within the technical specifications, energy efficiencies are front of mind for design teams and Qulliq Energy Corporation is a very willing partner in those discussions. So, we've had a number of working level partnerships with Qulliq Energy Corporation of late. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to rephrase my last question. So, it's my understanding that in order for CGS to incorporate any sort of solar or wind energy generating systems onto major capital projects, the GN would require commercial and institutional power producer agreement between CGS and Qulliq Energy Corporation. The power corporation had launched this CIPPP program in 2021, over a year ago, so since then how many times has CGS met with QEC to discuss this potential of allowing the GN to participate in the CIPPP?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Lightstone. I know Mr. Seeley and Minister Joanasie understand what all the acronyms are but you might want to just spell them out a bit in the future. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut, or CGS is eligible to the Independent Power Producing Program. There has been no agreements in place yet for any projects that are to come online. We haven't done work in this area. Anything more to add? No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone, *taima*? Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you. I just want to confirm that I understand the minister that he is indicating that CGS, or the GN would not participate in the commercial or institutional power producing program if it does incorporate alternative energy power generating systems onto major capital projects, but would go down the IPP program, which is the independent power producer program. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you. My apologies. Just to clarify, Community and Government Services would be ineligible for the commercial independent power producing program. There hasn't been any agreements yet since it was announced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Lightstone.

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a matter that I brought up in our last sitting. For a number of reasons it seems like it would be self-explanatory. The rationale in incorporating cost saving measures such as alternative energy into major capital projects, not just to save money in electricity bills, but reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as well. I seem to asking the same question every year and have not been getting anywhere with it.

I would just like to ask, hopefully for the last time, when will the Department of Community and Government Services initiate the discussions with the Qulliq Energy Corporation to participate in the commercial and institutional power producing program so that we can then; hopefully soon; see some alternative energy system being incorporated into our capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Lightstone. Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's bringing it up time and again. We can commit to initiating the discussions over the course of the year and see where it goes. We want to try and incorporate for future projects that might fit the bill under this program. It's an ongoing work. The opportunity is open. I'll work with my colleague, Minister Simailak, and our officials on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The last name I have on my list. Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you. I welcome the minister and his colleagues. I want to get to arena upgrades area. I want to ask if you are aware of Kugluktuk's upgrade some years ago on their arena. It was supposed to be an artificial ice arena. I just want to know if you are aware of that. *Koana*.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasié.

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that. Personally I'm not aware of it, but maybe if you will allow my deputy minister he may have some further information on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. My earpiece wasn't quite picking the entire question. Could I get you to repeat the question? I really couldn't hear a thing.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please, member, repeat your question.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked about the upgrade Kugluktuk had on the arena. It was supposed to become artificial ice and I guess it didn't turn out and I just wanted to know the cause of not using it as artificial ice. (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Seeley.

**Mr. Seeley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for repeating your question. My recollection is that Kugluktuk had a cement pad highly polished to a very smooth cement pad with thermosiphons installed through a series of partnerships around 2009. That retrofit to that arena did not at that time include the installation of an artificial ice plant, which is to say the refrigerant system that allows it to make the indoor ice. So that plant was not included in that retrofit at that time. There was an artificial turf surface added to the facility to make sure that it could be used throughout the four seasons, or at least during the warm enough seasons. At this point, the artificial ice refrigerant plant has not been scoped out or designed or proposed for funding.

As that is a municipal asset, it would be up to the Municipality of Kugluktuk to identify that retrofit for the installation of the artificial ice plant into the integrated community sustainability plan as a priority. From there, we would consider how it could be designed and incorporated into the existing asset along with the existing operations and maintenance costs related to operating those plants. They are fairly energy intensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. I just want to get to the petroleum part now. Does your department have any money set aside for any kind of emergency petroleum emergency? (interpretation) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I will allow the question, but we do get a chance at Petroleum Products Division on page J-9. I was quite lax on the first page to keep the momentum going, but I will allow the question, but I will ask members of the committee to pay attention to the page that we are on going forward. Minister Joanasié.



**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. The Petroleum Products Division, there is a line item for small capital, minor projects and upgrades. It is \$1 million and it goes towards things like installing heaters, horizontal tanks, tank civil work, or stainless steel dispensers. So those are the types of expenses through that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I asked that is there were some concerns here that were coming out that were going on right now. Taloyoak, sometime in June I think, they had a problem with the naphtha gas, their camping fuel, and that was resolved right away through the help of MP Idlout. Right now at Kugluktuk they have a serious with the naphtha, same thing as Taloyoak. It's the same situation. It is not very safe for the hunters to use while camping. Would that be something to look into at this time too? Koana.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for those questions. I think the Member brought this up with me before and we are and we can look at that in terms of perhaps of getting a sample done on the naphtha in Kugluktuk. This understanding that these petroleum products, naphtha they come in prepackaged in that and they are not treated so, to speak at the Petroleum Products Division. So, its might be a matter of source of where they're naphtha is being bought from. So, I do have a response that I will be sharing with my colleague on this if not by the end of today maybe tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Local Government Services. 45 million 209 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please turn to page J-5. Infrastructure. 27 million 570 thousand dollars. We'll give Members a moment to go to the right page and put their hands up for any questions. I think we covered quite a few questions during my lax chairmanship in the last page. But, I think move things along quite quickly. Here again. Infrastructure. 27 million 570 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to page J-7. Information Management, Information Technology. 17 million 610 thousand dollars. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to revisit it was asked a bit about Fibre Optic Link here. I just want to revisit it again now that we're in the Information Technology. I know the Mr. Sealy talked about their bids are closing and doing evaluations. This project has a total cost of 200 million dollars. It's a huge project.

Nunavut Government is only on the hook for 25 percent but it's a 200 million dollar project. That's a lot of money so, I'll ask the Minister who is doing the evaluation on the tenders for the project. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our Procurement Division along with some contract supports is will be doing the evaluation on the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister can be a little more forthcoming with information. Contract support. We'd like to know, this is a 200 million dollar project. What kind is it a fibre optic specialist firm, is it a computer firm. Can we get more details on it if the evaluation on a 200 million dollar project. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Hopefully an organization with some undersea landline experience. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologizes. The company is called DRG Undersea Consulting and that's helping support our procurement team. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, after for the Members here so we have a better picture. I have a pretty good idea of how it works. But, so the new Members will have a better picture of how it works. Once the evaluation is done, who will make a determination as to who gets the contract? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** If you will give me a second. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an executive oversight committee that will be looking at this, including officials from my department, Finance, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now we know who will make the decision, who will actually put their name on the contract? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The guy to my left, Deputy Minister Seeley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it will just be a comment, but I thank the minister for sharing the information that needs to be shared. When there is a project of this magnitude, I think we shouldn't have to ask all of those questions. That information should be more forthcoming so we can make informed decisions with the most information that we can be given on all projects, but especially something that is \$200 million. That is a huge amount of money that is going to be spent on this project, and as the Committee of the Whole, we need all the information that we can get so we can make an informed good decision. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Comments noted. Mr. Malliki is the next name on my list.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have questions in this area. It is not identified as to which communities will get the fiber line. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you are talking about the fiber link. (interpretation) If you'll give me a minute.

Sorry, the fiber is for Iqaluit and I don't know if he's asking on a different line item as well. If he can clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** The member is asking which communities the fiber will be linked to in Nunavut. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We announced that it would be from Milton, Newfoundland to Iqaluit, Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for clarifying that. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Savikataaq just mentioned that this is a contract and we're only dealing with one community. Maybe there is a cheaper option we can look at. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanase.

**Hon. David Joanase** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds are from the federal government that was set aside for remote rural communities. This funding is sourced through that agreement. It has been set during the planning from Newfoundland to Iqaluit to put a fibre line through the bottom of the ocean. That would be the total cost.

We know that once it's attached to Iqaluit, then they will provide a faster service for the other communities. That is the way we understand it, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the project is this expensive, you would look beyond Iqaluit. That's a \$200 million project. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Malliki. Just before I go on, I just to get a confirmation from the minister. In the substantiation sheet on the fibre project it states that the project will explore optional landing points for the cable in other communities, as able to be accommodated within the approved budget, is that still the case? Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That can be explored, as of yet. So, it's still open. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. In the substantiation sheet it said it will be explored, not it can be explored. So just to clarify that. I have no more names on the list under this topic. We've got Information Management, Information Technology. \$17,610,000. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please turn to page J9. Petroleum Products Division. \$13,100,000. Any questions? I have one, if the committee will indulge me. I brought this up in the past. When we look at revolving funds and the responsibility associated with them, not just revolving funds, but Crown Agencies, such as Qulliq Energy, which is a self-supporting entity, if which I feel that the Petroleum Products Division, should also be a self-sustaining entity.

I know there is a bill that was looked to be brought forward in the last Assembly to create a stand-alone category, but my concern is the capitalization. When we're having to approve millions and millions of dollars in this House to build tank farms and distribution framework, to me, that should be covered by the cost of our fuel. When we look at other products that we sell through revolving funds, most of the time, most of the expenses of that division come from the revolving fund.

I'm asking the minister if he, or his officials, have looked in further, maybe not even into a separate entity, such as what was proposed in the last Assembly, but at least a central capitalization of assets, so that the purchase of fuel will pay for tank farms and distribution, and whatnot, so that taxpayers are so that these monies can be allocated to other necessities. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for those questions. We are re-looking at that as still an option. Going forward, I think there is much that we can do around that. We know that there was a proposal to form a commission. We're still

looking at some form of that. We will be coming forward with a legislative proposal in the near future around that. Just in terms of we want to build into our pricing strategy on fuel on the capital needs of the communities.

We do have some information around, over the next ten years, for example, which communities would be slated for bulk fuel tank increases. There is still work to do on this, but I think you can expect that going forward there will be some form of review and decision made on what path we go on, but we'll consider your comments as well as the community members'. I agree that it should be something that we come forward with from Community and Government Services and I think it should be built into the pricing. That's something that we're going to look at very closely and I think there will be support in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that response, Minister Joanasie, and I do look forward to seeing more progress made on it. I think the urgency of such a venture has been proven, especially this year, with how many communities are left with shortfalls of fuel, and when it costs over a dollar a liter to fly fuel into a community it puts a lot of strain on other budgetary needs. If we can divert our general funds to go to projects unrelated to fuel delivery or storage, I think it would be a step in the right direction. I'll leave that as a comment.

Again, Petroleum Products Division... oh sorry, Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, I wanted to speak to this issue, as I wanted to reiterate the earlier comments made by my colleague sitting next to me, as he saw news that made him happy related to the fuel tank issue.

I heard this concern as well from my constituents which I believe you are fully aware of, as correspondence was sent with copies sent to us as well, nonetheless, I want them to hear the response so our constituents can hear either on the radio, or via television. I am not sure if we are being televised.

Nevertheless, one of the considerations you must include is Clyde River, as it is growing population-wise, and they require more fuel or diesel, and we all were made aware of this fact. We need to resolve this concern, and it needs to be placed at the forefront as it has had a very significant impact on the community for many years, as they have had to use aviation jet fuel to heat their homes.

Due to this matter, I want it considered fully, as it has a large effect, and this matter was also mentioned by our chairperson, that we can all be impacted and the price of diesel was quite high, obviously, and I don't think we were privy to the actual costs yet to service our communities with the shipped fuel going to Clyde River, when they had to air freight it into the community.

These types of emergency operations tend to become quite expensive, and with that additional cost affecting other community funds, so more contingency funding must be

set aside to allow for more flexibility. I would ask that more care be placed, and please do not forget us communities, and it must be prioritized, as the community has a larger population up there.

Indeed, my own community is quite a bit smaller than Clyde River, but we have more complete infrastructure facilities, specifically our community tank farm, and due to this challenge, I wanted to voice this concern and I wanted it heard unequivocally.

The other item is naphtha fuel, last year the quality of it was not good. The stock that is left over from last year, what are you doing with the naphtha? There's new stock in now, are you selling the old stock first? What are you doing in terms of quality control and they are not good materials. What is going to happen to that tainted naphtha fuel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, my apologies. In Clyde River, we have expedited the progress and for 2023, we will be all set to provide the types of fuels that are required and I do know that they started the work this summer. But, for the naphtha, we will have to do an assessment of the product. And, if it contaminated or otherwise we will have to decide what we are going to do with the surplus product, whether to sell it at a reduced price or make a decision on what we are going to be doing with the product. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Killiktee.

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you. We will have to do an assessment of the product. There were people that were going out camping using the naphtha and it affected them. And, but I would also like to bring up the subject of propane. We are, my question is if you're going start using naphtha tanks and then we can purchase propane because we are starting to use more propane tanks when we are out camping and so on. I don't whether if propane is being sold at the other communities either through the Hamlet Council. But, it is just a comment Mr. Chairman. And, I apologize for bringing up a total new subject. Thank you and that's it Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** It's all good Ms. Killiktee. That's why we are here. Mr. Anavilok. Sorry my misunderstanding I thought it was just a comment. Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was brought up by the Member for Aivilik in regards to propane tanks. They are not bought by the petroleum products division but they are being sold at the local retail outlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Anavilok.

**Mr. Anavilok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to bring up in my constituency of Kugluktuk. There was a tank gas station near the shore and it is not operational anymore and it's a pretty close to where kids go swimming every summer. I just want to know if there is any progress on that in removing that big tank there, the big gas bar that's there. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Joanasie.

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to do a review on that and maybe some site assessments. I don't have much detail on that at this time, but there would need to be a review for sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Again, Petroleum Products Division. \$13.1 million. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Members please go to page J-2. Community and Government Services. \$103,489,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that we are completed with Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, any closing comments?

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you. Hello? Hello? Can you hear me? Okay, sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank all the members for their questions today, yesterday and on Thursday. I know capital and infrastructure are hugely sought by communities and your questions proved that, but I also want to thank my officials that are both here and also in the background. Thank you for all the material that they prepared us today for. I hope each of you have a great rest of the evening and *ma'nalluavik*. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Joanasie and your officials for answering the questions and the commitments that you made to follow up. I'm sure that we will look forward to that information.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out. We will take a one and a half minute break and switch witnesses. Thank you.

>>*Committee resumed at 19:27 and resumed at 19:28*

**Bill 10 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2023-2024 – Health – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to welcome everyone back to the committee meeting. Before us we have the Department of Health. Minister Main, do you have any witnesses that you would like to appear with you?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do committee members agree to allow the minister to have his witness?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you. Minister Main, can you please introduce your official and then you can proceed directly into your opening comments. Thank you.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening. (interpretation ends) With me tonight I have Floreen Demavivas, Capital Planner for the Department of Health, and Deputy Minister Dan Florizone and Director of Corporate Services Greg Babstock both send their regrets. I believe that if we had the ability to have virtual appearances, they would be here answering questions.

Good evening, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to take this opportunity today to present the 2023-24 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health.

The focus of the 2023-24 departmental capital estimates will shift from that of prior years to the completion of construction and opening of the Nunavut Long-term Care Facility – Phase 1 in Rankin Inlet. This long-awaited resource will mark the start of being able to provide for all levels of care for Nunavummiut elders within the territory and closer to home.

Also, the Nunavut Recovery Centre in Iqaluit is scheduled to start construction in 2023-24. This facility will offer in-territory addictions and trauma treatment based on Inuit language and culture. The project is a trilateral partnership of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Indigenous Services Canada, and the Government of Nunavut Department of Health.

As in prior years, the department will continue to pursue projects intended to maintain and renovate our aging community health care facilities despite the challenges of securing the financial resources to do so at a time when Nunavut has so many infrastructure needs.



While the planning phase for the new Qikiqtarjuaq Community Health Centre has been completed, the detailed design and construction is expected to commence in fiscal year 2025-26 as the needed financial resources are not immediately available. Baker Lake continues to be the next community health centre identified for replacement and consideration for addition as a future planning project.

As prioritized by Health, further planning initiatives to be considered in future capital estimates processes include the replacement of the Kugluktuk Community Health Centre as well as a proposed expansion to the Arviat Community Health Centre.

For fiscal year 2023-24, Health is requesting an additional \$32,454,000 for four identified capital projects. I will briefly provide details of each of these projects.

*Iksivautaaq, Maligaliuqtiit*, Health continues to make progress towards addressing the long-term care needs of Nunavummiut. It has been a key ongoing priority of the department to build long-term care bed capacity in Nunavut to support all levels of care for the elder population. We will be completing the construction of our first new territorial long-term care facility that will deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality and safe care to our elders.

An appropriation is required in fiscal year 2023-24 to complete the construction phase for the approved 24-bed long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet. It is expected that the first Nunavummiut elders will take residency at this facility in winter 2024.

Work continues on the planning of territorial long-term care facilities for both the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot regions. Health remains fully committed to the development of long-term care facilities that keep cherished Nunavummiut elders closer to home within the territory. Seeing this work to completion will require innovative approaches by the government and strategic partnerships to secure the resources for construction and operation of facilities that will meet the need for all levels of care of elders in regional centres and in their communities.

In partnership with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Recovery Centre project continues through to completion of its design phase and represents a truly innovative and tripartite approach towards the delivery of vital treatment services. In the summer of 2021, as endorsed by Nunavut Tunngavik, the Government of Nunavut completed a contribution agreement with Indigenous Services Canada in the amount of just over \$42 million to help fund the cost of the Nunavut Recovery Centre capital project.

Health is requesting an appropriation in fiscal year 2023-24, part of Nunavut's contribution to the project, to commence construction of the facility in the summer of 2023. The provision of culturally appropriate programs through the in-territory treatment facility will allow Nunavummiut to seek and obtain these specialized health care services closer to home, promote increasingly healthy families and communities, and significantly reduce the department's reliance on out-of-territory residential care facilities.

The department is requesting its annual budget allocation of \$1.5 million for small capital procurements. The small capital appropriation is for the procurement and replacement of the department's medical equipment, vehicles, furniture, and other essential gear put to use within communities and health facilities across the territory.

Similarly, the department is requesting its annual appropriation of \$3.5 million for ongoing lifecycle capital projects and maintenance of Health's fixed assets. This yearly allocation is dedicated to minor renovations, repairs, modifications, and upgrades of departmental facilities territory-wide and is essential to ensure effective lifecycle management of Health's assets. Contingency funding has also been set aside within this envelope for any emergency repairs that may be required at health facilities during the year.

In closing, *Iksivautaaq*, the department is focused on developing capacity in Nunavut for the long-term care of elders across all levels of need, as close to their home communities as possible. Also, the need for in-territory addictions and trauma treatment is being addressed. We must remain aware that our clinical facilities and the essential services they provide are critical to providing health care to Nunavummiut. The capital plan provides for maintaining aging health care facilities and promoting the development of new facilities through prioritized approaches to ongoing building maintenance and lifecycle management.

I thank you all for your support on these important projects, and I welcome questions and comments from members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your support.

I am happy to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2023-24 includes funding for the long-term care facility in Rankin Inlet and the Nunavut Recovery Centre in Iqaluit. Both of these projects are ongoing from previous budgets. The 2023-24 budget also includes funding for ongoing lifecycle repairs and small capital purchases to address ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and emergency repair needs.

Mr. Chairman, elder care continues to be an important issue for members. The standing committee supports the funding request for the long-term care facility currently being constructed in Rankin Inlet. Providing more long-term care beds in Nunavut for individuals requiring the highest levels of care will reduce the need for elders to be sent to institutions in the south. However, members recognize that the number of elders requiring advanced levels of care may still exceed the number of beds available in

Nunavut and encourage the Department of Health to communicate closely with families on how decisions are made with respect to where elders will be placed to receive the level of care they need.

Members encourage the government to consider options for the establishment of more community-based residential care homes which could offer alternative levels of care and support for elders while keeping them close to their family and community.

It has been noted that in other jurisdictions a trend towards building smaller elder care facilities is developing as a result of pandemic-related experiences at larger long-term care institutions. Members encourage the minister and his staff to look into options with respect to building a number of smaller facilities with smaller budgets. Delivering elder care services on a smaller scale could also potentially allow for care to be delivered in a more culturally appropriate manner.

Mr. Chairman, members have encouraged the government to bring forward its comprehensive Elders Strategy as soon as possible and look forward to it being tabled in the near future. This strategy must address the training and certification of Nunavut-based caregivers to ensure that elders receiving care and support in Nunavut-based facilities can receive culturally relevant services. Members continue to urge the government in its efforts to recruit, train, and certify Nunavummiut in health career fields and specifically with a view to staffing positions at the new long-term care facility which is scheduled to be completed by 2025.

Mr. Chairman, the 2023-24 funding request for the Nunavut Recovery Centre has doubled since the standing committee's review of the department's draft capital estimates last month. During his appearance before the committee, the minister did indicate that cost estimates for the project were being revised and would likely increase. Members look forward to receiving further detail on the how the new budget was determined and what cost-saving measures were taken into consideration. Members also anticipate that further detail on the project's timeline will be provided. Members had a number of questions with respect to whether the facility would be operated by a public agency or by a third party entity once it is completed. The service delivery model at the Nunavut Recovery Centre, including clinical and non-clinical services, will have an impact on the physical layout of the facility which must also take into account such considerations as staffing requirements, training and certification needs, as well as staff housing.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that there are a number of aging community health centres across Nunavut that require replacement or extensive renovations. The department's 2023-27 capital plan indicates that a replacement health centre project for the community of Qikiqtarjuaq will not proceed until the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The standing committee has been given to understand that the status of each of Nunavut's community health centres is ranked according to such criteria as facility condition, age of the facility, and population growth in the community. Members would appreciate further

detail on how such additional factors as staffing positions, safety considerations, and community-specific social determinants of health are also taken into consideration for determining each health centre's ranking when prioritizing projects for replacing or expanding health centres. Members would appreciate receiving a comprehensive list of health centre rankings for community health centres across Nunavut, including the relevant criteria data used to establish the ranking order.

In communities where replacement health centres have been built in recent years, members encourage the minister to work with his staff to identify opportunities to use old health infrastructure to deliver additional program services falling under the department's mandate, especially in such areas as mental health and health promotion.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health's proposed capital estimates include two blocks of funding for ongoing lifecycle and small capital projects. Members appreciated receiving details on expenditures that have been identified under these line items to date.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2023-24 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health. I am sure and confident that individual members will have a number of comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brewster. Any comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, please turn to page H-3. Directorate. Department of Health. \$32,454,000. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, welcome, minister and welcome to anybody who is still paying attention and listening as we discuss these very important issues.

Minister, the amount of funding being requested for 2023-24 to proceed with the Nunavut Recovery Centre project has more than doubled since members reviewed the department's draft capital budget last month, as I have said in my opening statements. I would like to know what specific factors have resulted in such a significant increase in cost estimates for the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's primarily driven by the supply chain disruptions and also the pandemic-related escalation in capital costs that we have seen. The current estimate that we have is now a class "C" and since the class "D" estimate was prepared and class "C," where we are now, things have changed in terms of market conditions and that explains the increase. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, can you explain what class “C” and class “D” are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, so class “D” is an estimate that’s based on the initial sketch design and it’s accurate within a 20 to 30 percent accuracy in terms of the cost, so that’s over or under, and then for a class “C” estimate, that’s based on the design and class “C” is 15 to 20 percent accurate in terms of the costing, and then class “B” is based around construction documents that’s 10 to 15 percent. The most accurate class of estimate is class “A” based on tender documents and that’s 5 to 10 percent accuracy.

We are headed towards tighter and tighter budgeting as we proceed through the design phase of this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, you mentioned supply chain disruptions and pandemic-related issues. I’m sure that information is also encompassed in those factors and when you’re mentioning market conditions, are you also talking about the impact that the pandemic has had on human resources? I would like to know how you’re factoring things like that into the potential for the cost to go even higher and for more delays to occur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Yes, the factors that I was referring to include labour and so that’s the trend nationally where things are increasing quite rapidly. It has been difficult for not just Health but other departments to adjust their estimates around capital projects. We work closely with CGS in terms of looking at the numbers and looking at the conditions and bids that are coming in. There is a potential for further cost escalation, but the potential for delays is the biggest concern for me. We want to keep this project on track in terms of the timeline and we’re doing our best to keep it on time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, I know that one of the great potentials for delays is the issue of Iqaluit’s water and wastewater infrastructure. Information provided by the department indicates that the government has finally secured the land where the Nunavut recovery will be built, however the documentation also notes that there will be impacts on Iqaluit’s water and wastewater infrastructure. How is the government working with the City of Iqaluit to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm going to refer this question to Mr. Demavivas, please, if you'll allow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Demavivas, please proceed.

**Mr. Demavivas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in our current budget we included like 4 to 5 million for the access road and utilidor system. It also includes the water holding tanks for the sprinkler. We're working right now with the city to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I'm sure Ms. Brewster has a follow up to that one.

**Ms. Brewster:** I sure do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Demavivas, you just mentioned holding tanks for the sprinkler system and that reminded me of a project that was underway in Iqaluit during a time where there were major water and wastewater infrastructure problems that impeded the progress of that project and costs significantly rose during that time because the contractor had to install temporary holding tanks for both water and wastewater. It impacted, actually, tenants of a nearby building, it was the 6-storey and 8-storey. I'm wondering if you're taking that into account as a possibility of happening as well?

In addition to that question, I would like to know how far, to your knowledge, is the city advanced on addressing the wastewater and infrastructure issues that could impact? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** As Mr. Demavivas was already responding, I'll go directly again to him.

**Mr. Demavivas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's only for the water holding tank for the sprinkler system. As I received information from CGS, they said that they can use the Utilidor system. With regards to the details on how CGS and the city discussed, I don't have that further information, but I can get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does that impact the move between classes, between D, C, B, and then to A? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) As I understand it, it wouldn't necessarily impact the progression through the different classes of estimates, but it could have a further inflationary effect if it's driving up the cost of construction, potentially. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's getting late, and I can't recall whether or not we have an exact date about when a recovery centre will be completed and, actually, opened for clients to receive the very important programs and services that are projected for that centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So we have targeted substantial completion date: January, 2025. I would be hopeful that we would see the first clients coming through the facility in 2025. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just that you'll indulge me. I know it's not a capital question, but it is related to your projected opening and substantive completion. Is there a plan for housing and staffing so that there are employees that are ready to take on the client's needs, and that these employees have somewhere to live? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This project, as I mentioned, is tripartite and our partners at Nunavut Tunngavik have been very engaged on the staffing needs, and the potential for training. We really appreciate their support.

With regard to staff housing, the approved capital plan for the project originally included a \$10.2 million provision for staff housing dedicated for the facility. Right now, we've moved away from that approach and are working with CGS, Finance, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to find a way to address the staff housing requirements for the facility. We're working directly with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to obtain a commitment, in terms of an MOU or an agreement to set aside staff housing to be dedicated as Nunavut Recovery Centre staff housing. Our target for having that arrangement is a year prior to the opening of the facility. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, am I understanding correctly then that the housing that you're mentioning is included in the recent number of housing that have been announced by the Nunavut Housing Corp? Is this group of housing part of that bundle? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this point I can't say. We are currently in discussions with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on what this would look like. My understanding is that for Iqaluit the GN staff housing units are typically leased, as opposed to government-owned. So in terms of the mechanics, and what that looks like, that the purpose of these discussions with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. At the end of the day, my biggest concern is do we have the staff trained and ready to go so that the facility can start operating as soon as possible. Do we have the units that we need to attract and retain those staff? That's my chief concern. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been hearing recently that the recent condo sales program hasn't met expected targets and I'm wondering whether or not the Department of Health is in conversation with Nunavut Housing regarding the possibility of allocating some of those condos for sale to potential employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Pretty grey. Minister Main, if there are any discussions maybe you can update the committee?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Nothing specifically on condo potential, but it is an important aspect of staffing the facility and providing the needed service, so it's something that from Health's perspective it's very important to this facility and the success of the facility, and we'll keep committee members apprised if there is any developments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, the federal government's Department of Indigenous Services Canada committed to providing over \$42 million towards the Nunavut Recovery Centre project. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated committed to a one-time \$5 million contribution, and I'm wondering how much has each of these entities committed to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The \$5 million contribution from Nunavut Tunngavik has been redirected back to their organization to develop internal positions that support the addiction and trauma treatment system in Nunavut. In terms of the Indigenous Services Canada contribution, in prior we've received \$502,000. My apologies...in 2021-22 we received \$190,000 Indigenous



Services Canada and in this current fiscal year, \$1.33 million. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just follow up first on the \$5 million dollar commitment from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. You said that they have retracted that, have they reneged on that commitment to contribute that funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't know if I would use the word 'reneged.' Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is a valued partner of ours, it's a really innovative project that we're sharing together in the Nunavut Recovery Centre. That \$5 million commitment is still there, it's been re-profiled. They've also committed to \$11.8 from the Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation to support the work around developing an Inuit workforce. I realize that I'm straying into operations when I make that reference, but I just wanted to illustrate that NTI is contributing, or planning to. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I think it was a fair Segway, Minister Main. When there is a lack of clarity when an organization makes a commitment to contribute to a project, there is many different ways of doing it. There's training, there's other components to it. If I may interject, Ms. Brewster, if the minister could maybe elaborate a little bit more on what that \$5 million is going to be used for I think it might help clarify the discussion. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Unfortunately I am not able to provide additional details around that. The 5 million dollar contribution was redirected and it's for internal positions. It supports the addictions and trauma treatment system in Nunavut. So, that includes it is not just a Nunavut recovery centre but also a community based on the land programming and continued work around Inuit workforce to deliver services that are culturally appropriate. And, if the Committee wanting additional details around that 5 million dollars, I can certainly seek them out as required. Ma'na Itsivauta.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. I'll leave that up to Ms. Brewster to request that. But, I will ask did this re-profiling of this money put more burden on the Government of Nunavut's budget for this project. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main:** Ma'na Itsivauta. In terms of that re-profiling, I just don't have enough detail to I don't have that detail in terms of when that re-profiling happened and whether or not if it increased the burden on the Government of Nunavut. I can seek out that information and provide to the Committee if that would be helpful. Ma'na Itsivauta.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main, I think it would be helpful to know whether if we may have another request for additional 5 million dollars down the road. And, I do apologize to Ms. Brewster for interjecting in her line of questioning. Please proceed, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Not at all Mr. Chairman. That didn't eat up any of my time. You got questions answered. On the subject of the 42 million dollar commitment from Indigenous Services Canada, you said that 190 million dollars has been contributed and additional 1.33 million dollars is coming shortly. Can you tell me over the life of the project what the commitment for the 42 million dollars is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main:** Ma'na. So, the commitment from Indigenous Services Canada is contribution of up to 47.5 million dollars over 5 years. And, that includes, 75 percent of the capital costs and it shall not exceed 41.2 million dollars over 5 years. And, after the initial 5 years, Indigenous Services Canada has committed to a contribution of up to 9.7 million dollars annually towards the on-going operations and I apologize, I am going to Operations again. But, I am trying to provide fulsome answer. Ma'na Itsivaut.

**Chairman:** I appreciate Minister Main but I think it does actually have a lot of the Capital. So, I do appreciate for confirming that information. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that as well Minister. How many Nunavut communities currently have buildings or space dedicated to mental health and addictions programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It depends how you define mental health and addictions treatment in terms of residential treatment. There are none currently. In terms of outpatient services, we have a mixture of facilities. A mixture of places where facilities were they provide those services. In some communities, it's in the Health Centre. In some communities, they're counselling or mental health services provided outside of Health Centres. It's a mix. When we look at our paraprofessional's initiative, accessing office space has been a constraint in some communities in terms of wanting to staff up and provide additional services, but being in a deficit for office space and it's highly variable from community to community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister. We know mental health is a growing area of concern across all of Nunavut.

Under the department's ongoing lifecycle budget, there are plans to repurpose the carvers' studio building in Arviat into a mental health and addictions programming space. I'm wondering: does the Department of Health have a long-term plan to establish mental health and addictions facilities in all communities across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That's an excellent question. At this point we don't have type of comprehensive plan. I think the addictions and trauma treatment system, the plan that has been developed through the tripartite work that has happened in past years, I think we're headed in the right direction where it's not just about the Nunavut Recovery Centre; it's also community-led, land-based healing programs and putting a lot of work into developing the workforce.

The trend towards greater community ownership or in-community work around mental health, I think, is really exciting, but in terms of capital and infrastructure, we still are stumbling up against barriers such as access to office space and access to staff housing. Those are two of our principal barriers in terms of community-based programs or services that we can deliver. It's something we continue to work with our partners at the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Human Resources, and Community and Government Services on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, I wholeheartedly encourage you to do as much work as you can to allow people to receive those really important preventative programs especially. We know that the centre here will be open to all Nunavummiut. However, as with elders' care, closer to home is what helps people heal and ensures their safety and health.

I'm going to move on. I realized earlier that I asked a question about MEDITECH to CGS and I couldn't figure out or I couldn't find where I had the question and it's because it was for you, minister. In 2021-22 the Department of Health received \$2.3 million to upgrade its MEDITECH hardware system across all Nunavut communities. Information provided by the government shows that one of the small capital items being considered for purchase in the current 2022-23 fiscal year is MEDITECH EMR-compatible scanners. Will the MEDITECH upgrade require the purchase of any other new equipment or machinery and, if so, what is the anticipated cost of those new items? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the MEDITECH EMR-compatible scanners, we're looking to do that because

the existing scanners are overused. There are three scanners at an estimated cost of \$20,000.

In terms of MEDITECH and additional costs around that, I don't have any additional detail in front of me at this point in time. If the committee is interested in more detail, I can provide it at a later date. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, I would appreciate that further detail as well as the further detail that you offered regarding that \$5 million from NTI. I meant to say that earlier.

On the issue of MEDITECH, we know that MEDITECH isn't accessible in all regions and especially in some smaller communities. I'm wondering if this installation will address that issue so that everybody who needs access to MEDITECH has access. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently MEDITECH is in use in all 25 Nunavut communities as well as two referral centres outside of the territory.

In terms of recent updates with regard to MEDITECH, we did allocate \$100,000 in small capital funding to procure an auditing software tool and that's in the current fiscal year. In terms of the auditing tools, that project will be completed in March 2023 and it is something we're working on.

Also, we have implemented the new ambulatory module in Nunavut, so the Qikiqtani General Hospital and clinics in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay went live with the module in May 2022 and Kimmirut and Qikiqtarjuaq deployed the module in July 2022. The next steps include rolling out to remaining health centres, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of this fiscal year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you for that clarification, minister. The department's 2023-24 capital estimates include \$1.5 million for small capital. Have all the small capital items requested for 2022-23 been purchased to date and, if not, which ones will be carried over for purchase in 2023-24? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll let Mr. Demavivas reply.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Demavivas.

**Mr. Demavivas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of our 2022-23 small capital is already ordered and it's already delivered. There are some like Ford Expeditions that were cancelled because of lack of supply, so we're going to order that for the next sealift season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Can I just confirm that there are unspent dollars in the current fiscal year that's anticipated and will that be coming forward as a carryover? Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm not sure if it will be brought forward as a carryover. I do know that there is a huge need for the small capital dollars on a year-to-year basis and normally we would not have any problem expending the monies because there is such a need. With so many facilities, equipment can be quite expensive. I'm not sure if that answers your question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** It did. Reading between the lines, I understood it as you're going to buy what you can this year and things that weren't able to be purchased in this year will be purchased next year under this budget. I see heads nodding. That's fine.

Thank you. I would like to go to the next name on my list: Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question I have to the minister is not on this budget; on process. This is the second time the minister has appeared before the Committee of the Whole and this is the second time he has not had a deputy minister when pretty well all departments have a deputy minister sit next to them. Can we have an explanation? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister Dan Florizone is currently unable to be here due to medical reasons that prohibit him from travelling here. If we had a virtual appearance capability, he would be here on a screen beside me and he would be able to answer questions. I know it's something that's technologically impossible. It's something that I think would be helpful, in terms of contingency planning for the future. I hope that answers the question. He is physically unable to be here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume he physically was unable to be here the last time too then, just for clarification. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'm trying to remember was that the O&M budget sitting, I can't remember the exact circumstances at the time. We might have been in between deputy ministers at that time, I believe. If the committee wants additional details on past appearances of witnesses, I can look into that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that's out of the way, I'd like to go to another topic. This is touching on the O&M again. The Elders centre in Arviat closed down. We saw that in the news due to not passing, or not safe. When the minister was on this side as a Regular Member, he fought hard to get the Elders Centre renovated. He said the \$400,000 was there. Now that he's the minister responsible for that, I know the building owned by Health, I know that, but they have received the money for renovations. Can I get an update on the renovations that are happening, or not happening in Arviat Elders Centre? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. I've been through that building, myself, and I believe the last time I was in there, I threatened to bring my skill back and do the renovations, myself. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of the status of the renovations, the deficiencies in the kitchen that the member noted, those deficiencies have been addressed. At the time, it was under the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

So, in terms of managing the renovation project and any capital related items, that's where we work with our partners at the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The operation side is handled by Health. Through Pimaksavik Corporation, the operators of the facility, we work to identify any capital related needs. We would, at the time, flag them to Nunavut Housing Corporation for repair. The windows, I believe, have been replaced. So that's been a great improvement. I have heard from the staff and some of the residents. However, there may be future work needed to keep that facility up to code and keep it in good condition for the residents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification. The minister said at that time the building was owned by Housing Corp, has there been a change in ownership then? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're currently in the process of transferring over the maintenance responsibilities from the

Nunavut Housing Corporation to Community and Government Services. (interpretation)  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated the kitchen deficiencies were fixed, and the windows were replaced. Up to date, is that the only renovations that has been done to the facility? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There may have been other work that has been done, in terms of ongoing lifecycle type of maintenance but the work on the windows as well as the work to address the deficiencies in the kitchen. Those are the two items that come to mind. I am able to seek out additional details from Nunavut Housing Corporation if the members have any interest. Ma'na Itsivauta.

**Chairman:** I thank you Minister Main. I think the Committee would like to see that information in detail come forward. I know that there are other issues that I am familiar with, I'd like to see that we are remedied. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the Member was on this side too he was a big advocate for building elders care in every community if possible. Like to know what is the biggest barrier as to why the Government will, I know that they are working on regional facilities right now. What is the biggest barrier from bringing in more elder care facilities into the none regional communities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main:** Ma'na Itsivauta. There are a number of barriers. I think the limited Capital dollars are barrier in terms of infrastructure not just for Health but for many departments. So, that is definitely a factor. I think another barrier that we are dealing with is the lack of a plan or a strategy that would identify the needs. In terms of what types of facilities or what type of housing is needed and where are they needed. And, that's I think precisely why we decided in our mandate to put out a Comprehensive Elders Strategy in there. It is a multi-facet issue, it is not just a Health issue. There are housing aspects, there are aspects related to Family Services. There are Justice related aspects when it comes to things like elder abuse. So, it's a large issue on terms of what types of housing and facilities are needed. So, those are two that comes to mind. I am sure that there are others. Ma'na Itsivauta.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that there has been a large push and I'm looking forward to seeing the Elder Care Strategy done so, that we

will know what direction that the Government is going towards of Elder Care. I grew with the Minister that it's not just elder facilities, there's a lot more to it. Is there talk, has the Minister been talking with Housing Minister in terms of Capital Housing for Elders through the announcement that was made for the 3000 units. Thank you.

**Chairman:** That is fairly outside of the scope of the Bill that is in front of us, Mr. Savikataaq. Maybe I'll push that back to you and you can ask the Member either outside the Chamber or through another venue. Mr. Savikataaq do you have another question.

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was outside yes, I agree, just wanted to see if there were any plans for elder facility that are linked to Capital. I am aware that the Department of Health is responsible for housing. I am aware of that. There is a bit of grey area that comes in there. Going onto other topics here, since 2011 the Department of Health have built 5 new health care facilities and I know there is none slated within the term of this government.

I have talked to the health minister about this before that health centre is inadequately too small. Inadequately can't provide the services it should provide for Arviat. I would just like to know where in the line is it that Arviat's health centre might be expanded, or replaced. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) With regard to the previous question, maybe my colleague from the Nunavut Housing Corporation was listening will be ready for that.

With regard to the Arviat health centre, it's currently ranked fourth in our ranking of community health centres replacement or expansion needs. So Arviat is currently slated fourth in terms of when we could expect to see that important work happens. It's all dependent on the ability of the Department of Health to secure capital dollars to do that work. It is something that has what the member mentioned, in terms of inadequacy of the facility, it does have real impacts on our staff and our patients, and something that is very important, in terms of seeing capital dollars invested into Health across Nunavut, as needed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. The next name I have on my list, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In May of 2022, the Assembly the carryover funding to carry out repairs at the Rankin Inlet Wellness Centre, the old health centre, which was renovated to include public health, homecare, and burgeoning programs. What is the current status of the renovations and the delivery of the services has been affected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.



**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So for the wellness centre repairs, we had budgeted \$525,000, but the bids on that contract were beyond the budget. So we are trying to secure additional funds to award the contract on that, and expected to completion is summer of 2023, if we are able to secure the additional funds. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the Department of Health considering any additional modifications to any of the three regional health facilities in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, or Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of modifications, we do have monies planned to go the Kitikmeot health centre, in terms of repairs, the Kivalliq health centre repairs, as well as the Qikiqtani General Hospital, in terms of needs. I guess the largest item, in terms of those three facilities, is the central sterilization room that we're for at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, and that's budgeted around \$1.5 million. It's a priority item, given the safety nature of sterilization, of course at operating rooms, and what have you. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Main. Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the department considering providing additional services at any of the original health centres that will require capital funding for infrastructure or equipment and, if so, what are they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Main.

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In terms of expansions to services that would have capital implications, I believe is the member's question, I'm not aware of any major items that are coming forward. There have been additions or expansions made to services here in Iqaluit, for example, with the obstetrics and gynecology program now in place, but in terms of the capital aspects to that, for example, that new service, I'm not aware of the budgetary implications when it comes to capital. There may be some equipment that's needed, but that would come out of our small capital fund. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. If I could just get a clarification, sometimes when equipment is purchased, it's not through the small capital. There are renovations such as with the testing lab in Rankin Inlet as an example that had to be renovated to accommodate the COVID testing equipment. I think that's where the member was going. If there's any anticipated equipment, additional services being provided at the regional health centres that would require renovations, Mr. Main, can you confirm?

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I'm not aware of any that are planned, but if I stand to be corrected and if I am to be corrected, I'll correct myself through correspondence to the committee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you for that. Mr. Malliki.

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Sorry, Mr. Malliki. I missed that on here. There's a motion to report progress on the floor and it's not debatable. All those in favour. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker:** Please be seated. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to see that the Sergeant-at-Arms let the witnesses leave the table.

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

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Qavvik. 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, followed by a meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus. Both meetings will take place in the Nanuq Boardroom.

*Orders of the Day* for November 2:

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 9
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 2, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:41*

