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**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**Pages 1122 – 1152**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Tony Akoak, MLA**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)

**Hon. David Akeeagok**  
(Quttiktuq)

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Development and Transportation; Minister of  
Energy*

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(Amittuq)

**Mary Killiktee**  
(Uqqummiut)

**Karen Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Daniel Qavvik**  
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(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for the  
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(Rankin Inlet South)

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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*

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(Netsilik)

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**Joe Savikataaq**  
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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**George Hikes**  
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Family Services; Minister  
responsible for Homelessness; Minister  
of Human Resources;*

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak**  
(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Justice; Minister  
responsible for Labour; Minister  
responsible for the Qulliq Energy  
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**Hon. David Joanasic**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, 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): Good day. Before we begin, can you say the opening prayer, please, Ms. Quassa.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good day, Inuit, my colleagues, as well as to the people who are watching the televised proceedings and listening to the radio broadcast. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Nakashuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 076 – 6(2):  
National Day for Truth and  
Reconciliation**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. Good afternoon, my fellow MLAs and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2022 the Government of Nunavut declared the first ever statutory holiday in support of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This is a day for Nunavummiut to learn about and acknowledge the severe harm that thousands of Inuit children and families endured because of forced attendance at residential schools.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut recognizes the intergenerational impacts that residential and day school systems continue to have on generations of Nunavummiut. By prioritizing this day and declaring September 30 an annual holiday for the public service, the Government of Nunavut commits to ensuring this tragedy is remembered.

As we reflect on this dark period, we must continue to work together to foster reconciliation and healing by honouring survivors and their families and educating ourselves about the historic and long-lasting impacts residential schools continue to have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 077 – 6(2): Atii  
Angutiit**

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

session, I spoke about the men's healing and wellness program that began in the Kivalliq region. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that since then there have been huge strides made in that program. Atii Angutiit is expanding territory wide and bringing vital mental health support to all men in communities across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, as part of this exciting initiative, facilitators will travel to every community hosting workshops featuring motivational performances by Nunavut artists and a variety of activities designed to encourage participation, collaboration, communication, and healing.

Mr. Speaker, to date, the Atii Angutiit tour has visited Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and all Kivalliq communities except Coral Harbour, which was missed due to weather. Mr. Speaker, plans are in the works to begin travelling to the rest of the Baffin region and the Kitikmeot.

At the end of each session, the goal is to have community members establish their own ongoing men's wellness programs to assist in fostering better mental health in all our communities.

I am so proud and excited to see the expansion of this program, which demonstrates Piliqatigiinniq/Ikajuqtiigiinniq as the programming is being designed in partnership with those it will work to help. Thanks to this collaboration and the hard work of Inuusivut, I am hopeful we will see healthier communities.

At the break, I invite the members to look at the visual display with some

highlights from this exciting initiative as it travels through your communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 078 – 6(2):  
School-based Positive Mental  
Health Supports and Services**

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

*Quana*, Mr. Speaker. We know that many of our students struggle with their mental health. We also know that the sooner students receive the help and support they need, the more likely they are to participate in school, lead healthy lives, and contribute to their communities.

The Department of Education has several initiatives to strengthen our students' mental health and well-being, and I would like to share some of these initiatives with you today.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education employs *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit*, or school community counsellors, in every school. These critical members of the school team provide social-emotional counselling to students, as well as connect them with other community services. We are pleased to have been able to increase the number of *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijiit* in our schools this school year through a change in our funding formula.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is also expanding our mental health support services program and we are pleased to now offer remote support. As we continue to expand the program, our remote and in-person mental health services are available in 22 schools across 12 communities.

Mr. Speaker, when a school community experiences a social emergency or a crisis, this can affect a student's mental health and well-being. For this reason, the Department of Education has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross to make psychosocial support available to all schools following a crisis. Timely and effective psychosocial support is a critical component of community wellness and helps heal psychological wounds, while preventing longer term issues following a crisis.

Mr. Speaker, along with the initiatives I mentioned, the department has also developed resources and training opportunities for school staff to support positive mental health in our schools, and we look forward to continuing this important work.

By working together with students, parents, *ilinniarvimmi inuusilirijit*, and school staff, our department is able to offer a range of services and resources. Our department remains committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of our students. I have highlighted some of these supports today while we work to expand the range of services, training, and resources available to support our students. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 079 – 6(2): 2022  
Canada Summer Games – Team  
Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, this summer, Team Nunavut had 56 athletes, coaches, youth ambassadors, and support staff at the 2022 Canada Summer Games which took place in Niagara, Ontario. The Canada Games program is the highest level of competition available for amateur athletes in the major multi-sport games format in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the 2022 Canada Summer Games were very exciting for Team Nunavut. I had the opportunity to attend the opening ceremonies and meet with our delegation. The excitement was contagious.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it was the largest delegation to date for Nunavut, and the first time Nunavut participated in beach volleyball and indoor volleyball. The volleyball teams played competitively, and I would like to highlight the extremely exciting game between Nunavut and Yukon female team that went to five sets, as well as the wins that each beach volleyball team won respectively. Go, Team Nunavut!

Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut had a historical win and brought home not only their first medal from the Canada Summer Games but a gold medal in wrestling.



>>Applause

I would like to congratulate Eekeeluak Avalak from Cambridge Bay and all his teammates and coaches, along with Team Nunavut, on this gold medal and his composure and representation of Nunavut on the national stage. I know Nunavummiut are extremely proud of you, as I am.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time, Team Nunavut was awarded the Jack Pelech Award which goes to the provincial or territorial team whose athletes, coaches, managers, and mission staff that best combine competitive performance, good sportsmanship, and a spirit of fair play, cooperation, and friendship. Congratulations to all of Team Nunavut on this honour.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank our community volunteers and territorial sport organizations who work tirelessly to prepare our athletes for these opportunities and invite Nunavummiut to join me in cheering on our athletes as they prepare for both the 2023 Arctic Winter Games and 2023 Canada Winter Games both taking place this coming winter. (interpretation ends) *Atii Aksut!* Let's go, Team Nunavut! (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Congratulations to Team Nunavut. You made us proud.

Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Ms. Nakashuk.

### **Minister's Statement 080 – 6(2): Building Psychologically Safe Workplaces**

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk**

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to highlight tools and resources being developed by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission to help employers and workers move toward mentally healthier workplaces.

The commission has developed a guide for employers in Nunavut to assist them with implementing the National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace. The guide helps employers and workers get started in planning and managing psychological health and safety in their workplace. It provides practical steps on ways to support mental well-being as part of health and safety programs, and outlines ways to create an environment where workers feel respected and valued.

Workplaces can be central to a person's mental health as a source of well-being and productivity, but they can also be a source of stress or an environment where harm can happen. As with any health and safety issue, creating a mentally healthy workplace requires time, resources, and commitment from leadership. When employers and organizations fail to acknowledge or address the negative impacts that workplaces can have on employees' mental health, the results can be costly.

The guide is available on the commission's website at [wscc.nu.ca](http://wscc.nu.ca). (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements.  
Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 109 – 6(2): Medical Travellers

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut and Iqalummiut, as well as visitors in the gallery.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of medical travellers who have health issues and (interpretation ends) face difficult experiences while travelling. That's the purpose of standing up for this on behalf of the elders and people with disabilities that face enormous challenges when travelling on longer routes to get to their medical appointments. It is a very troubling situation for those who need special care.

*Uqaqtii*, in my constituency of Uqqummiut, which includes the communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq, it is very sad to see elders or others with serious health issues experiencing great difficulties traveling on the longer flights when there is a shorter route that they could have been booked on.

Just recently, Mr. Speaker, I was travelling back home and going through Clyde River. Walking into the airport in Clyde River, I was very surprised to see a member from the community of Qikiqtarjuaq who was battling with a difficult health issue for some time, who travelled the day before, trying to get

home, and had to be bumped due to the fact that because she started to have a health issue on the plane while trying to land to Clyde River. It is for that purpose that I am standing. (interpretation) She even required an ambulance. Well, she is not that old, but she has physical issues.

Therefore, (interpretation ends) this situation needs attention. Mr. Speaker, I believe that special care must be taken to make more appropriate travel arrangements when a medical client has been given clearance to go home.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you for allowing me to conclude my statement.

(interpretation ends) Some of my constituents have repeatedly requested to have their travel bookings take into account their needs, but it often seems that those responsible for making medical transportation arrangements don't take their requests and needs seriously into consideration.

*Uqaqtii*, changes are needed in our contracts with the airlines and in the policies for booking medical transportation. I call upon the government and the Minister of Health to make those changes now.

(interpretation) I will be asking questions on this issue at the appropriate

time. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 110 – 6(2):  
Heavy Equipment Operator  
Training in Arviat**

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

Now I rise today to heap some praise unto the Hamlet of Arviat, to uplift the hamlet council and their employees, who proved their dedication and commitment to ensure that residents of Arviat benefit from local development, which is their goal. There was recently a training course which I wish to mention in this statement.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the hamlet in Arviat there, mayor and council and the staff don't just sit and wait for training opportunities to come or things to come. They go and make their own training program. They go out and get things done in Arviat. They need to get done and I'd just like to talk a little bit about their heavy equipment operator training course that happened.

The Hamlet of Arviat in partnership with Arctic Response Canada Limited and funded by Department of Economic Development and Transportation, thank you very much, also by the Department of Family Services, thank you very much too.

The heavy equipment operator training has been adapted and designed to provide training and development opportunities with the community of Arviat. The training opportunities intended to support the skill set required for students to take advantage of opportunities in the construction and mining industry locally and regionally.

In addition, the heavy equipment operator training enables a better learning experience by providing our students with opportunities to meet current industry requirements and expectations of heavy equipment operations in their home community.

This was a 10-week long course with 12 participants and half of the participants were female.

Mr. Speaker, each student had approximately 532 hours on the simulator and seat time on actual equipment and I'd just like to name the students that graduated from this class.

- Kulula Napayok
- Derrick Gibbons
- Jessica Malla
- Melissa Ulayok
- Kesha Karetak
- Johnny Amarudjuak
- Christopher Shamee
- Cheslea Aniksak
- Gavin Nipisar
- Jewel MacCallum
- Brian Aggark
- Bruce Amarudjuaq

I would like to congratulate all these students and thank the hamlet again for their never-ending commitment to the town of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 111 – 6(2):  
Recognizing Adam Tanuyak**

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a good friend of mine. A friend who I first met when I working as a summer student, fresh out of high school with the federal government, a good friend who I've also had the opportunity and privilege to formerly represent as a former constituent of mine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Adam Tanuyak, the artist also known as Hyper-T.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tanuyak has been very vocal in sharing his own mental health challenges and has been sharing his experiences as part of the Atii Angutiit Men's Healing and Wellness program. He'd travelled to many communities hosting workshops. Providing motivational performances and Mr. Speaker, I was really excited to follow Mr. Tanuyak with his travels through his posts on social media.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank for the Department of Health for organizing those events, more specifically Mr. Tanuyak for being such an exceptional role model and being very open in sharing his experiences and ensuring others can overcome their own challenges.

I would like to ask the Assembly to join me in thanking Mr. Tanuyak for his

excellent contributions to our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 112 – 6(2):  
Men's Healing Workshops in the  
High Arctic**

**Hon. David Akeeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to speak about the Department of Health. We have talked about a lot of bad things, but I heard a very good comment from a minister.

The Atii Angutiit men's group went to Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay and were appreciated for the work in setting up groups in communities. With their growth and the expansion of skills gained in the men's group, I encourage them to keep going to form.

Working together, we can deal with issues about suicide, mental health, and alcohol and addiction issues that need to be reduced. Men, women, and all included, this program makes it possible to see the positive things that can happen in communities.

I also want to note that when I was up there, there were performances. When I went to Arctic Bay, Hyper-T was everywhere in the whole community. They felt his music to work on healing. It's coming to the communities.

I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut for the work in this area. Supporting is slow, but it's beneficial for

our future. I am grateful. I honour our fellow men that joined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 113 – 6(2):  
Recognizing Eekeeluak Avalak**

**Hon. Pamela Gross:** *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Cambridge Bay.

I would like to stand today and rise and acknowledge a very special young man in the community who recently came home with Nunavut's first ever gold medal at the Canada Summer Games, Eekeeluak Avalak.

>>Applause

It's such an honour to acknowledge him for his hard work and dedication over the years as a young athlete who persevered through many challenges throughout his life and overcome many obstacles to be where he is today.

He's had great role models and his coach, Chris Crooks, cannot be acknowledged without in due part of his success, and all those other family members and friends who have been there for him and supported him throughout his journey.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge his teammates who were with him as a part of the wrestling group for Nunavut. We had Deanna Ekpakohak and Jusipi Dimitruk, who were also a part of his team.

I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut and those who sponsored the athletes to go to the Canada Summer Games. As we work to support our students in sports, we know that they can overcome many obstacles and adversity is a big obstacle that I think they have overcome and are growing and flourishing along the way.

Eekeeluak is studying in Edmonton right now and I wish him all the best along with his classmates as he goes forward. When I saw back home and welcomed him into the community after coming back, I asked him what was next through his career and he said that he's going to go for the Olympics.

>>Applause

We're hopeful and we wish him all the best. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Congratulations again to the gold medallist.

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

**Member's Statement 114 – 6(2):  
Travel Delays for Medical  
Travellers**

**Hon. Craig Simailak** (interpretation): Good day, fellow members. It is with great joy where I was able to arrive to Iqaluit and I arrived from Baker Lake yesterday, and to my fellow Baker Lake residents, I was informed and am aware that many medical patients from Baker Lake were experiencing travel bottlenecks as people got stuck trying to return home. Last week as well as yesterday, passengers were forced to stay in Rankin Inlet while trying to

return home and we are aware of this issue.

My fellow MLA is also the Minister of Health, Mr. John Main, and I have continued to keep him apprised as alternative arrangements are being made related to this travel hiccup. We haven't forgotten them as we are trying hard to resolve the delayed travel arrangements and we understand many patients are homesick. We and medical travel staff are working hard to ensure they return home, so please remember that we are aware of this bottleneck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Welcome to the people visiting the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 175 – 6(2): Minimum Wage

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Iqalummiut, those of you watching and those who are listening to a rebroadcast, I am here for you today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I raised the issue of raising Nunavut's minimum wage back in March of this year during our winter sitting.

As the minister is aware, there is a legal requirement under the *Labour Standards Act* for the minimum wage to be reviewed annually.

At that time I noted that Nunavut's minimum wage had not increased since April of 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the minister is very much aware of the inflation-driven cost of living crisis facing many Nunavummiut and other Canadians, especially those who are most economically vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in March, the minister's predecessor assured the House his department would conduct its annual review of the minimum wage this summer.

Mr. Speaker, it is now October and the weather forecast for tomorrow makes it clear that winter is finally coming.

Can the minister confirm what his department's review of the minimum wage concluded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. We are working on that. We are working on tabling some reports actually during this sitting, so, more information soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I raised the issue of minimum wage back in March, I pointed out that it is far from being a living wage.

As I noted, a single individual making the current minimum wage of \$16 an hour would make less than \$35,000 per year, even if they work 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

What is the minister's position concerning the adequacy of Nunavut's minimum wage?

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. As the minister responsible, a minister we do look at what should or could be done, where we can help out our constituents.

If I can go back to her first question quickly, the summary review found that there is not a need for an increase actually, which may seem surprising, but that's what the review came and I am open to another review. Of course it will happen. If the next review needs to happen where we do need to see an increase, I would support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, I'm happy to hear that you've just indicated that you're willing to revisit that wage review.

We know that in recent weeks the inflation rate has risen and that is impacting people's pockets. It's impacting their ability to afford food, and to afford the basic amenities of life. I would like you to re-confirm that you will go back and review that minimum

wage in the very near future, rather than waiting until next year due to the recent increase in cost of living and inflation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will discuss with the department and see what we can do. Let's see how quickly we can do it again, I can commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 176 – 6(2): Medical Travel Contracts**

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my member's statement, my question is for the Minister of Health. I'll ask directly.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) ever since the merger of the two airlines, which has provided services to the north, our means of travelling has been severely affected.

In addition, communities which had a drop for a growth in employment opportunities for those have decreased.

By saying that, can the minister tell us when the airline contracts to provide medical travel services will be up for renewal? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of the contract for medical travel on scheduled airlines, for Canadian North, the contract started on the first of January, 2020. It is scheduled to expire December 31 of this year. There are contract extensions available on that contract. As of this time, we have yet to decide whether we're going to exercise those extensions.

For the Kivalliq region, for Calm Air, the contract started on December 1, 2019. It is scheduled to end November 30, 2022. Again, there are extensions available on that contract.

I'm not sure if the member is also interested in medevac contracts, but those are the scheduled airline related ones. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that fact. I want to continue querying you on this subject, as medical travel arrangements are required for patients to attend medical appointments or treatment.

Mr. Speaker, to date, perhaps to switch, (interpretation ends) to date, the airline merger has not helped Nunavummiut. It has become much harder for the travellers. It has had an especially negative impact on medical travellers. Medical clients often have to wait many additional days or even a whole week to come back home if their flight has been cancelled due to the medical or to a mechanical or other reasons.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtii*, can the minister explain what assistance is provided to medical travel clients in these circumstances and what steps his department is taking to address this important issue? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for her question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should mention that there is always an element of hardship when we talk about medical travel.

I think the best place for medical services to be delivered is at the community level. The only reason we are sending people on medical travel is because those services are not available and so that's why, as a department, we are looking for opportunities to develop community-based service delivery. That was something when I was in Ottawa recently advocating for with our federal counterparts.

When it comes to the issues around the airlines' schedules, as the member mentioned, the merger and I should also mention COVID, in the last couple of years airlines have dealt with very fluctuating travel volumes somewhat related to COVID, but currently travel volumes are returning to pre-pandemic norms, I am told.

Particularly for the Qikiqtaaluk region right now, the department's position is that the current airline schedules are providing enough capacity for medical travel volumes, but we do recognize that there are travel issues that occur and we



are there to support travellers when those do happen.

On November 6, a little over a week from now, Canadian North will roll out a new schedule for the High Arctic which will increase the number of useable seats and total cargo space per week for most communities, the airline services. I do hope that improves things for the member's constituency. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Killiktee** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you as I am aware of your dedication and commitment on behalf of the people in both your community and fellow residents of Nunavut, and that you are deeply concerned about these issues as well as complaints raised by them. This makes us anticipate more improvements in this field.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to voice these issues on behalf of my constituents, especially our elders and people with disabilities or mobility issues who require more specialized care currently. Perhaps I will state this in English. (interpretation ends) I strongly urge the minister to direct his staff to ensure that these medical travellers receive special attention when they are booked for medical appointments.

(interpretation) In particular, to add this, when a person is in critical care, what I mentioned earlier is there was a case with a client that had travelled up to Clyde River to Qikiqtarjuaq and had to be dropped off in the Clyde River and slept overnight at the hospital there.

What is being expressed is how we can shorten the length of travel.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to working with the airline contractors and with his staff to ensure that elderly and vulnerable medical clients can travel to and from their home by the shortest route possible? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. John Main** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will commit to that.

My understanding is that it has already been an issue that has been previously identified within the medical travel file. The medical travel teams have been directed to send elders and travellers with respiratory issues, for example, on the shortest commercial flights as possible. We are looking for, operationally within the department, ways that we can strengthen that.

I should mention that sometimes when we factor in weather delays or scheduling issues, sometimes it is the patient's decision to go on a longer route, that's just an example, because it would get them home two days earlier. There may be a shorter direct flight, but it's not for a number of days. There are all kinds of different scenarios that do play out.

I thank the member for the questions. The department continues to work to streamline things for travellers so that the hardship on them is reduced when they're seeking essential medical services. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 177 – 6(2): Nunavut Housing Strategy**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Minister of Housing some questions on housing.

Mr. Speaker, there has been, I think, if you look at the *Katujjiluta* mandate, the number of 1,000 housing units to be constructed in the next three construction seasons since there was no new construction work done this summer due to cancelled tenders, and then we heard the announcement of the Nunavut 3000 strategy to build 3,000 units before 2030.

Mr. Speaker, my first question is: is it 3,000 houses in total that the housing corporation envisioned or is it 1,000 houses in the mandate plus 2,000 houses above that? Nunavummiut would like to know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is 3,000 houses in total. The breakdown roughly is this: looking at transitional housing units, such as beds, and those things, shelters, places to be determined, we're looking at about 300 houses. We're looking at new public housing units at 1,400, affordable housing units at about 900, and new market housing units at 400. If my math serves me correctly, that would be 3,000. That's our target. We would like to be

above that, but that's our goal, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Another news article that was out was the Premier had requested, with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, \$500 million jointly to fund Nunavut 3000. I'll just make an assumption that \$250 million would go to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and \$250 million would go to the Government of Nunavut if the Prime Minister were to write a cheque.

Mr. Speaker, has funding been secured to build all these 3,000 housing units that are anticipated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's our goal. We do not have that, obviously, as the ex-premier would know. You don't have funding secured for the next 10 years. All the money that we do get annually, and taking a look at the private sector market that will be building some of those units, if we can continue to achieve the funding goals that we have to now, we do have funding to do what we have to do during our term. I don't anticipate having issues finding the money for them during the term of this plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Savikataaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unusual for a sitting government to commit to the next government. I hope that funding can be obtained for the next government because there are commitments that appear to be made for the next government that is going to be coming in 2025.

Mr. Speaker, another issue is the minister has said that this is ambitious and it is ambitious to build another 333 units, minimum, every three summers to get to the 1,000 units, and the minister has stated that it is doable.

We know that some of the hamlets have issues in terms of land availability, water issues, and other issues. I am not sure if the government has been talking to the municipalities about how many units that the municipalities can handle. I know all municipalities want to get as much housing as they can get because everyone needs housing.

I'll ask the minister then: have there been any discussions with the municipalities in terms of the number of units each municipality can take within the next three summers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not uncommon to have an ambitious plan to see the housing going forward. Mr. Speaker, we will do what we can during this term to achieve those numbers and the plan can only be strengthened as governments move

forward when we see this plan beginning to take shape.

Mr. Speaker, our goal is ambitious, but in our targeted plan as in this document, we are looking at having 360 units built across Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, part of this whole building process which the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been doing for years is before we go into a community to build houses, we have to work with the municipality and the Community and Government Services' lands department sections to ensure that the lands that will be occupied for these builds is there and that goes forward as we work with the communities where we look to be building.

Building these units, Mr. Speaker, some of them will obviously be built on where houses used to be prior to burning down or becoming derelict and a lot of it will be built on new lands and we are working with the municipalities and Community and Government Services and the private sector landowners to ensure that there is adequate land before we build in these communities.

Our targets are there. We have a plan in terms of which communities we will be building in next year and the year after that and that prepares us at least one and two building seasons to ensure that there is proper land. Not just the land, but you also have to ensure that there are power lines and water and sewer services and the roads going to those areas, and we will ensure to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Question 178 – 6(2): Pond Inlet Airport**

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, his department's 20-Year Airport Infrastructure Needs Assessment indicates that "The current Pond Inlet airport is unlikely capable of expansion to accommodate a suitably long runway. It is recommended that a feasibility study be undertaken to determine the cost and benefits of constructing a new high arctic hub airport at Pond Inlet for civil and military purposes."

Mr. Speaker, this recommendation has been in place for a number of years. Can the minister confirm when his department will undertake the feasibility study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That report has been here for quite a while and our department is quite aware of that. One of the things that I have committed to doing was that we update our 20-year needs assessment. As part of that needs assessment that I have yet to table here until it gets translated, part of that is there is a chapter on what is a definition of a hub and how would we determine what a hub community would look like in this day and age of new planes and the new requirements that come as part of this. Through those, those are the things that we need to do.

To relocate an airport right now is over \$100 million, which is money we don't have and something that is always challenging. There are two communities that have been on the list for relocation due to safety. We haven't been able to do that, let alone start looking at new hubs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Pond Inlet's municipal leadership has emphasized the importance of relocating the airport from its present location and to begin the process of planning for a new airport that will enhance the community's strategic location.

Can the minister confirm that the Government of Nunavut supports the concept of designating Pond Inlet as the hub for the North Baffin region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit to that right now. My colleague from another constituency is also advocating for it being a hub for the North Baffin. The way it's currently done now is Iqaluit is the main hub for this part of the territory and Rankin Inlet is for the Kivalliq. That part is working right now. Right now I haven't been getting into looking at further hubs because it requires for airlines to determine where they would be best practised. Right now the

indication has been where we are now is currently working, so I'm not in that at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Earlier this year I had the privilege of participating in the opening ceremony for Pond Inlet's new marine infrastructure. This facility will enhance the community's ability to participate more fully in the blue economy and the marine tourism sector. A new airport would be a strategic complement to the marine facility.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the department's funding is not unlimited. Can the minister confirm if the federal Department of Transport will be reopening its National Trade Corridors Fund to new proposals in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the member for a wonderful host when we did the opening of the Pond Inlet marine facility. That is a very beautiful facility that the community is going to benefit from and I'm really looking forward to the expanded benefits that are going to come out of that.

For the question related to the National Trade Corridors Fund, I do know that they go through proposal calls and I haven't been told when the next one is, but the funds on that are roughly \$400

million for the whole of Canada. That's much smaller than what we have been accustomed to. I'm patiently waiting for the call from the National Trade Corridors Fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 179 – 6(2): General Rate Application**

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the Minister for Qulliq Energy back in the House today.

Mr. Speaker, back in late May of earlier this year I had asked the minister for an update on the general rate application that has been submitted to the Utility Rates Review Council. I was just wondering if the minister would be able to give me an update at this point on the application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member for his question. Yes, we got the recommendations back from the Utility Rates Review Council, so we're very close to finalizing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if the member did answer my question, but I was hoping for a little bit more detail on the status of the application itself. Although the

recommendations have been brought back, as we're long after the 150-day requirement for the Utility Rates Review Council to provide their feedback to the minister, I will move on, but I'll likely be following up at a later date with the minister on that.

During the same questions that I was asking in May, the minister in one of his responses to my question on whether a consideration would be made for the City of Iqaluit to receive some type of separate subsidy so as to not have to force property tax increases onto the residents here in Iqaluit, who are already paying the highest property taxes in the territory, at that point the minister had mentioned that Qulliq Energy officials were meeting with City of Iqaluit officials that day. I would like to get an update on what occurred at that meeting and what plans are in place in the minister's own words to try to minimize any massive shock increases for Iqalumiut with any property taxes. 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. Yes, as the corporation we were very much concerned about rate shock, I guess would be the word, for Iqalumiut with the only property taxed community in Nunavut that pays for property tax through the city. We re-classed the City of Iqaluit so that they wouldn't have to pay for such a huge property tax to pay for these new power rate increases. We took their costs into consideration and re-classed the City of

Iqaluit so that they wouldn't have to go through that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have another supplementary question, but I'm going to revisit the response that the minister just made. I will correct the member that all property or leaseholders across the territory do pay property taxes; it just goes through Community and Government Services other than the City of Iqaluit.

With this new rate base or with this rate classification that was made, I don't recall seeing that in the application to the Utility Rates Review Council. I'm just curious as to whether that was a recommendation back in the recommendations from the Utility Rates Review Council or is this something that the Qulliq Energy Corporation undertook upon themselves and, if so, what rate class, how was that determined, and what methodology and formula were used to determine a fair rate class for Iqalumiut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Craig Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Utility Rates Review Council did the rate adjustment and it also stemmed from the meeting between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the City of Iqaluit. It was a three-pronged approach, I guess, to get to that final consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 180 – 6(2): Dust Suppression**

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

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, it is our first sitting since the springtime. Although I am pleased to say that my constituents in Sanikiluaq enjoyed our warm weather, the annual dust problem continues to be an issue.

As the minister is well aware, road dust can exacerbate a number of respiratory conditions and impacts the quality of community life.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came to Iqaluit after being elected as the MLA for Hudson Bay, I was very surprised to see the extent to which the roads of the capital city have been paved. It is my understanding that a previous government spent over \$12.0 million to pave the roads of Iqaluit. I am sure that the minister remembers the announcement.

Can the minister confirm what funding, if any, is available from his department to undertake road paving projects in Sanikiluaq or other small communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Dust control in Nunavut is a common problem around municipalities.

In regard to the paving projects that have occurred here in Iqaluit, I do know that Rankin Inlet does have paved roads in some of its areas as well. I think this is something cost-wise that we need to consider around. There are dust control technologies that we try to provide them as options for municipalities to use and it involves making sure that the road is treated in a specific way.

As for funding, my department's Municipal Block Funding Program would be an ideal or one of the areas where, if a municipality wants to pursue dust control equipment and/or activities, they can use that as well as other possible funding pots that are available to the municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response, minister. It is my understanding that the minister's department has worked with communities in recent years to undertake a number of studies and pilot projects to examine different ways of controlling dust. Can the minister indicate what work was undertaken this past summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any particular activities, but I do know that many communities are quite happy when the rain starts to fall. I think that's one of those activities that naturally occurs, but aside from that, I'll have to get back to the member on any specific activities

around the studies that occurred around dust control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Qavvik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, the Government of Nunavut published a document titled *Environmental Guidelines for Dust Suppression on Unpaved Roads*. This publication was last updated in the year 2014. Can the minister indicate how his department is working with the Department of Environment to update this publication? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member. I don't have details around what his question entails, but I follow up with my colleague at Environment and see what has been done to date around that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, there is a plethora of employment opportunities in Iqaluit which do not require advanced education or high-end certification and can be fulfilled with relatively straightforward basic labour. Unfortunately

organizations are having trouble filling these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time we have a significant number of Iqaluit residents who are on income assistance. Information provided in the 2021-22 Government of Nunavut Business Plans indicated that there were over 1,000 Iqaluit residents on income assistance. Mr. Speaker, that information was not included in the Government of Nunavut's most recent business plans for '22-23.

Mr. Speaker, in order to address needs and issues in our communities, we require good, up-to-date information. I would like to ask the minister to indicate how many Iqaluit residents are currently receiving income assistance, and will the minister commit to ensuring that this up-to-date information on the number of income assistance recipients by community is included in future business plans? 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 that additional question regarding the number of Iqaluit residents currently receiving income assistance. Based on the most recent data survey, there were over 1,000 residents of Iqaluit, but that number fluctuates from quarter to quarter. In this current fiscal year, I do not have actual figures, so I cannot ascertain if it is higher or lower at this time. With the variation of these numbers throughout a fiscal year, I don't have the numbers, but I can return with the figures once I have



received further briefing on the actual numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Maybe I'll follow up on that at a later date.

Mr. Speaker, it pains me greatly to see people arriving from elsewhere to take jobs that our local residents could easily fill. I believe that we are facing an artificial labour shortage whereby income assistance recipients are disincentivized to join the workforce. One solution to this situation, which has been raised in the House on many occasions, is adopting a guaranteed basic income.

In the government's 2022-23 business plan, the Department of Family Services priorities included reviewing the results of its Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study and implementing recommendations from the study.

I would like to ask the minister to provide an update on the results of the Guaranteed Basic Income feasibility study and indicate what steps will be taken to implement such recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for asking that question. Your statement will assist us in determining the ways to benefit income

support recipients further and how we can provide more meaningful ways of support.

We are cognizant of the situation here in Iqaluit, and further, our support workers or (interpretation ends) career development officers (interpretation) see the same clientele who arrive to receive their benefits. To date, this system remains the mode of operation. Further, they diligently assist clientele who express interest in receiving training for career development or in applying for employment opportunities within the community proper. They offer help and logistical assistance when it comes to filling job descriptions and to ensure that income assistance recipients don't remain solely on income assistance as we try to move younger clientele forward in terms of education and bettering themselves for their futures. We continue to encourage all clients presently.

Further, the issue that you raised is constantly being addressed under the (interpretation ends) Guaranteed Basic Income assessment. (interpretation) This fall we anticipated the report that you mentioned being completed by the summer, but now we hear that the report will be finalized by December. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lightstone:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. I'll definitely be following up on that at a later date as well.

Mr. Speaker, another contributing factor to the artificial labour shortage is the

Nunavut Housing Corporation's rent scale. Mr. Speaker, across three territories, Nunavut has the lowest basic social assistance or income support amongst the territories. Mr. Speaker, this is largely due to the fact that both Yukon and NWT are paying higher income support payments because it includes rent allocation or a portion.

In order to overcome this disincentive to join the workforce, I was curious if the Department of Family Services is considering incorporating rent into either the current income support system or the potential Guaranteed Basic Income program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Margaret Nakashuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the additional question. The entire program is reviewed and particularly related to unemployed income assistance clientele, the assessment includes a supplement of \$60 towards their monthly rent, which is for payment towards their rental arrears.

There is another program under the Department of Health and Family Services that forwards the payments to the NHC for electricity and fuel on their clients' behalf. Based on an annual review and assessment, the amount that the government subsidizes is allocated as \$720 for utilities, for a total provision of \$27,000 annually for the sundry housing costs. Part of this is paid by the government.

Also, when recipients seek employment, we perform an assessment based on the specifics of their employment income,

with the monthly rates adjusted accordingly to keep their costs down. Our aim is to offer support without hindering the goal of gaining employment. The area you mentioned can be included in our review of this program. However, we must ensure that all these matters are taken into consideration by our government as it can add costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 182 – 6(2): Office of the Fire Marshal**

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have some questions today for the Minister of Government Services concerning the Office of the Fire Marshal.

Mr. Speaker, this office has important responsibilities in the areas of fire prevention, inspection and investigation.

As I noted yesterday, Naujaat is expecting answers about the cause of the recent fire that destroyed our community hall.

Mr. Speaker, the department is currently advertising to fill the position of fire marshal.

Can the minister confirm how many positions in the Office of the Fire Marshal are currently filled and how many positions are currently vacant? (interpretation) 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 his question. Mr. Speaker, I'm just going through my notes here. The fire marshal's office currently has, out of 16 positions, eight are vacant, so 50 percent at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for that response. (interpretation ends) It is my understanding that the Office of the Fire Marshal works with municipalities and other stakeholders to conduct inspections and undertake fire prevention activities.

Can the minister confirm when officials from the office next plan to visit the Naujaat community and Coral Harbour to conduct inspections and fire prevention training? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut fire marshal's office does support activities around fire prevention, and coincidentally it was the day after this that the Naujaat community's hall caught fire that the Fire Prevention Week was held October 9 to 15. We support different types of activities and visit the schools and support the fire drills that can be conducted throughout the territory, as an example. I don't have specific details around when they would visit Naujaat,

but I can get back to the member with some further details around that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Malliki** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for the response. Firefighters provide fire prevention training in the schools. I would like to know if that training is also provided to all communities in Nunavut. I'll ask this question. (interpretation ends) The Office of the Fire Marshal's 2020 annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in September 2021. Can the minister confirm when he will be tabling the annual report for 2021? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Office of the Fire Marshal provides an annual report to the Department of Community and Government Services. With the fire prevention training that they provided in 2020 through the (interpretation ends) Public Fire Safety and Community Fire Department Contribution Policy, (interpretation) 150 firefighters were trained through 18 modules. All communities are provided this training.

However, to the question about when the annual report will be tabled, subject to the approval of my ministerial colleagues, the 2021 annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal will be tabled in 2023 if it is approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

**Question 183 – 6(2): Office Space Needs in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Sammurtok** (interpretation): Good day to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have received many concerns from Chesterfield Inlet about the urgent need for more office space in the community. I have been informed that the delivery of important programs and services are being impacted by the lack of suitable spaces.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community and Government Services issued a request for proposals in June 2021 for office space in Chesterfield Inlet. The request for proposals was later cancelled as a result of there being no bids.

Can the minister indicate if his department plans to issue a new request for proposals for office space in Chesterfield Inlet? 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 his question. In terms of when we don't have any bidders on requests for proposals, we will have to consider

different options and at which time we are considering options. I can't say what we will be going with, not just in Igluligaarjuk, but once those details are ready to come forward, I would be happy to share it with my colleague, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that Chesterfield Inlet is not the only small Nunavut community suffering from a lack of office space. Can the minister clarify how his department plans to address this issue across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasié:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member again for that question. Mr. Speaker, my department always monitors and reviews what available spaces there are in communities where we operate our business. This is going to be a continual process where if there is no space available and it's needed by either our department or client departments, we will pursue those through lease or other options. I know that there have been reports around office space studies done, so those will also be considered and factor into our plan forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the department does not have unlimited funding with

which to construct new office buildings. Can the minister indicate if his department is holding discussions with NCC Development or other private construction companies to enter into agreements where new buildings will be constructed by the private sector and leased to the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'm not aware of these discussions. I'm not a part of those discussions myself, but if the member is suggesting that we pursue that, I'll have to advise the member that I haven't been a part of those discussions at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 184 – 6(2): Update on Mould Remediation**

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

I would like to direct my questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Going back to the issue of mould once again, I would like you to inform us as residents of Amittuq as to how many houses the housing corporation has remediated and I would like you to indicate to this House the number of houses that the housing corporation has worked on since the \$7 million was approved for Amittuq in both Igloolik and Sanirajak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mould remediation in houses across Nunavut is a huge undertaking and it has been worked on for several years. It is still continuing, Mr. Speaker. Quite a number of houses have been remediated and training has been provided to local housing organization staff in all communities. Mould remediation training has been provided to local housing organization workers and where there is too much mould, it has to be treated externally. We're still working on it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaernerck** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question was quite simple. I asked how many houses have been remediated. It will be ongoing work. Yes, this is very important, as mould severely impacts those with breathing issues. I saw that personally in a household. The minister didn't answer my question, so maybe I'll rephrase it.

You said that you have trained local housing organizations on mould remediation. Why haven't you used this \$7 million for local housing organizations? Did you contract a vendor located outside of Nunavut? As you have stated, minister, you have trained local housing organizations. Why haven't you used this funding and allocated it to the local housing organizations so that they can remediate the mould?

Can you provide the funding to the local housing organizations so that they can work on mould remediation and renovations to housing units and not give the money to a company down in Barrie, Ontario, for example, so that the money stays in Nunavut and jobs are created? Perhaps if you plan it that way and the local housing organizations hold that responsibility, would it be better? I think you can understand my question now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Yes, it is understandable, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for the question. I tried to respond adequately, but some local housing organizations in Nunavut are unable to deal with larger mould issues. They have to be fully trained on safety procedures in mould remediation, as there are different types of mould and some can be so hazardous that only mould remediation experts and those with proper equipment can handle. Local housing organization staff cannot just enter a house that is hazardous because we want to keep them away from harm.

To date, we have remediated mould from many houses. From 2019 to 2022, there have been 170 houses remediated from mould and we are still planning for 2022-23 to remediate mould from 76 more houses in the communities across Nunavut. For example, in Sanirajak there are seven houses being planned to be remediated, although there have been other houses remediated in previous years. Other communities are being planned for 2023-24 for mould remediation.

However, getting to why the money is not just being used solely for those in the communities, my answer is that there is no one who is qualified to do the specialized work. When an expert is required to go to the community, they are flown in, but the money can also be directed to those who are qualified to do mould remediation work in the communities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kaernek** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for providing the numbers. Thank you for that. Indeed, mould remediation is very important. I noticed some houses being remediated of mould in Igloodik. What happens when no one is allowed to enter a house that is too hazardous? Meanwhile the tenants can live in the housing unit that is considered hazardous and it can't be dealt with urgently because they have to wait for an expert to be flown in.

There is a housing shortage and your plan is to construct 3,000 housing units by the year 2030. With the housing shortage and houses with severe cases of mould not able to be attended to, can the housing corporation come up with a solution? Can you find a way to work with the local housing organizations when it comes to mould remediation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different causes of mould. Some houses

are so old and dilapidated that mould continues to build up and due to some houses being constructed poorly, perhaps there are leaky roofs or the heating system is inadequate. There are several different causes of mould. Some houses have HVAC systems that are sometimes turned off and training is required for tenants to prevent mould in their houses, such as cleaning surfaces. There are many causes of mould.

We are working with the local housing organizations in the communities in coming up with solutions. In the Nunavut 3000 document that he referenced, we are reviewing how the housing units will be constructed to make them more resistant to mould. We are working with the local housing organization staff to hear their suggestions on how to reduce mould in housing units. Some houses don't have any mould. Why are some houses mouldy while others don't have any mould? Those are the things that we are reviewing.

Yes, we can work more closely together because we don't want anyone to be in danger in Nunavut. As the new housing units are constructed, it is obvious that some of the antiquated housing units that we often speak about in this House will be torn down and replaced by new housing units that are better. We are discussing all of these issues, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

### **Question 185 – 6(2): Nunavut Land Use Plan**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second questions today are for the Minister of Environment, and I appreciate you for acknowledging me again this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to revisit the issue of land use planning in Nunavut.

As the minister will recall, I raised this issue with him earlier this year during our winter sitting. On Monday of last week, I attended a public consultation meeting that was held here in Iqaluit. This meeting was organized by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Nunavut Nukkiksautiitt Corporation, which is a subsidiary of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. As the minister is likely aware, the meeting addressed issues concerning land use planning around Iqaluit and the potential for hydroelectric energy development.

Mr. Speaker, I'm on record as stating that Nunavut urgently needs a land use plan so that we have more clarity on a number of issues related to development in different spheres.

When I last raised this issue in March, the minister confirmed that he and his department are providing input into the Nunavut Planning Commission's draft land use plan. It's my understanding that a full week of public hearings is scheduled to take place next month here in Iqaluit at the Cadet Hall.

Can the minister provide an update today on what his department's main concerns and recommendations are in respect to

the draft land use plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They're right in the middle of regional consultations that are taking place. They're up in Pond Inlet right getting feedback from the communities and the stakeholders, and the final one will be here. Following that, the stakeholders' recommendations are to be updated. What I'm doing right now is listening to what the people are saying. I don't think it would be worthwhile to say these are a number of concerns right now.

The draft plan is in the public domain. We review it and we need to hear from the public. That's what's taking place right now. The draft plan as it is, there are a number of areas that we will definitely need to visit, but it's something that I'm happy that there is a draft right now that we can work towards. It has three major stakeholders: there is Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Government of Canada, and ourselves. We will be signatories to that. At this point it is at the public consultation stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, this draft land use plan has been in the works and in the making since the creation of Nunavut. One would expect that the experts at the departments of the Government of Nunavut who are responsible to give

input do in fact have the informed advice to give to that plan.

I'll move on to another question. Information published by the Nunavut Planning Commission indicates that the Nunavut Land Use Plan will "...apply to projects/project proposals within municipal boundaries that have ecosystemic impacts outside the municipality, or involve the deposit of waste by a municipality, the bulk storage of fuel, the production of nuclear or hydro-electric power or any industrial activities."

Last week's public meeting here in Iqaluit included discussion of the potential for a hydroelectric energy project. Can the minister clarify his department's position concerning hydroelectric development near Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeegok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association is taking steps to looking at hydro as a potential, and I'm very pleased that in the Kivalliq there is a potential of hydro. We need those as a source of energy as a replacement to diesel. I'm looking forward to one day relying on hydro or any safe energy that has to be offered to here. From my perspective, that is one project that I would want to see come forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm what



discussions he has had with the presidents of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation concerning the land use study that is underway near Iqaluit and the potential hydroelectric project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the hydro project, I've had numerous meetings with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association president on a number of fronts; fisheries being one, the hydro, and various projects. I have a very good working relationship with the Qikiqtani regional Inuit associations and a number of these sectors that they want to go, we talk to each other to figure out how we're going to proceed with these and who is going to do what. I have a relationship with the other regional Inuit associations. Those are the very things that we talk about and to try to figure out what would be best for the territory and who is best prepared for it.

For this particular one on the hydro project, the QC would be in the better position because they already have a subsidiary company that they have created that's looking at alternative energy and that's the forum that they're going through. I respect that. I have not had any discussions with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation about that specifically. My meetings are with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association at that level for that to take place. It's one that I'm excited about and I hope that it will continue, that it will progress into an actual project, whether we have the land use plan approved or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The time allotted for question period... Mr. Hickes.

**Mr. Hickes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to extend question period. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are none. There is a nay? There is a nay. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

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

#### **Tabled Document 046 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Minister of Education**

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter I received from the Minister of Education yesterday, October 26, 2022. This letter refers to issues I raised during question period on that same day, October 26, 2022. I will have further questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents.

#### **Tabled Document 047 – 6(2): Terms of Reference for the 2022 Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission**

I have one document to table today, which are the Terms of Reference for the

2022 Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 08 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023 – First Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

#### **Bill 09 – Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2021-2022 – First Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 9, *Write-off of Assets Act, 2021-2022*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

#### **Bill 12 – An Act to Amend the Commissioner’s Land Act – First Reading**

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

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

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

#### **Bill 14 – An Act to Amend the Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act – First Reading**

**Hon. David Joanasie:** Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 14, *An Act to Amend the Northern Employees Benefits Services Pension Plan Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

#### **Bill 11 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading**

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

be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

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

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

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 08 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 8, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2022-2023*, be read for the second time, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

I recognize the Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

**Motion 012 – 6(2): Early Adjournment**

**Mr. Savikataaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member of Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee, that the House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order and not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. We will now proceed to Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for October 28:

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
  - Bill 9
  - Bill 11
  - Bill 12
  - Bill 13
  - Bill 14
19. Consideration in Committee of  
the Whole of Bills and Other  
Matters
  - Bill 8
  - Bill 10
20. Report of the Committee of the  
Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** As a reminder to members, please join me for the Order of Nunavut Investiture Ceremony that commences at 6 p.m. here at the Chamber. This happy event is open to the public, so bring along your friends and family members.

This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 28, at 9 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:26*

