

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Corrections:

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak

(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister Responsible for Mines; Minister Responsible for Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister Responsible for Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister Responsible for Trade; Minister responsible for Human Rights Tribunal; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok

(Iqaluit-Niaqunngu)

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

Bobby Anavilok

(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster

(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross

(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister of Human Resources; Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

George Hickes

(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. David Joanase

(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernek

(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee

(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Finance; Minister responsible for Liquor and Cannabis Board; Minister responsible for Liquor and Cannabis Commission; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone

(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main

(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Solomon Malliki

(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk

(Pangnirtung)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Karen Nutarak

(Tununiq)

Daniel Qavvik

(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for Languages

Joanna Quassa

(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq

(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok

(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Joe Savikataaq

(Arviat South)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 24, 2024

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 Kaernerck, 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. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 13:32*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Tony Akeoak) (interpretation): (No interpretation)

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: (interpretation): (no interpretation)

Speaker's Statement

(interpretation ends) I just had a message from my wife this morning that was forwarded to me and it was a message on the Facebook by my granddaughter who is only 12 years old and a message for everybody and anybody to read. And appeared it touched my heart this morning and it read, "pray to God. He won't laugh at you." That's what she said.

Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I am pleased to welcome members back to the House for our fall sitting. I also extend a very warm welcome to elders and Nunavummiut who are following our proceedings on video, television and Internet livestream. I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Lew Phillip on his recent and well deserved appointment as Nunavut's new Deputy Commissioner.

>>*Applause*

Lew is no stranger to this House, and I speak for all Members in saying that we welcome his appointment to this important constitutional role.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Gjoa Haven, I'm very proud to inform the House about the recent Umiyaqtutt festival, which was held in the community last month. This festival is named with the Inuktitut word for "shipwreck." It celebrates the important role that local Inuit knowledge played in the historic discovery of the lost ships of the Franklin Expedition.

This year's festival was a great success, and I thank the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven, Parks Canada, the Nattilik Heritage Society, and the many community volunteers whose hard work made it happen.

I now wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory every two distinguished Northerners who recently passed away last month:

The Hon. Tony Whitford devoted decades of his life to public service. He held many important offices, including Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Tony was a very good friend to Nunavut. We will mourn the passing, while celebrating his legacy.

The Hon. Bonnie Tulloch was a retired judge from the Nunavut Court of Justice, whose career took her to many communities across the north, including Gjoa Haven. She was deeply committed to a fair justice system for all of our residents. We also mourn her passing while honouring her work.

We also lost a lot of Nunavut members this past year to death, and condolences all go to the families of the loved ones that have passed away from this Assembly.

Before we proceed with Orders of the Day, it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from Her Honour the Commissioner of Nunavut:

Money Message

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the 2024 fall sitting of the second session of the 6th Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023 2024*;
- Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024 2025*;
- Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024 2025*;
- And Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026*.

Sincerely,
Eva Qamaniq Ariak,
Commissioner of Nunavut.

We will now proceed with the Orders of the Day. Minister's statements. Hon. Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 462 – 6(2): Long Term Service Awards

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to all of our colleagues and hello to everyone in the House here and across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Long Term Service Awards are a way for the Government of Nunavut to acknowledge, celebrate, and show appreciation for the commitment and hard work of our valued public service employees. This year, Mr. Speaker, several ceremonies have taken place in Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Iqaluit, Kinngait, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Resolute Bay, to recognize employees reaching milestones of five, ten and 15 years of continuous service, and our department of human resources is already will go ahead to hosting additional ceremonies next year in more of our communities.

As Minister of Human Resources, I look forward to sharing updates on future dates with my colleagues, and look forwards to our continued support as we extend sincere appreciation to our public servants.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to thank many of our colleagues from this House who joined us at the Long Term Service Awards and gala dinner hosted here in Iqaluit on October 17. It was a heartwarming event and it was a true privilege to be joined by members of this House to honour more than 180 Government of Nunavut employees and members of their families from communities across Nunavut, who completed between 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and even 45 years of continuous service.

>>Applause

Through unwavering support and dedication, these have been structural in making our territory a reality, while working towards our collective vision for a stronger, more resilient, and prosperous future for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this House to join me once again to applaud this year's Long Term Service Award recipients. On behalf of our whole government, I sincerely thank each of you. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and positive impact your service brings to to our families and communities. Quana.

Speaker: Minister statements. The Honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Minister's Statement 463 – 6(2): Peace Bonds

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to welcome all to this House. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the recent expansion of community justice services to Nunavummiut, who may fear for their safety and security and require protection.

A peace bond is a legal remedy under the Criminal Code that can impose conditions on individuals to protect victims or potential victims of violence. A peace bond offers option for Nunavummiut who may be in situations not covered by the [] Family Abuse Intervention Act. While an application for a peace bond can be filed at the Nunavut Court of Justice in Iqaluit, until recently there was no established process in place for filing an application in the rest of Nunavut's communities.

In response, the Department of Justice is Community Justice Division worked collaboratively with the Justice of the Peace office to develop training on the peace bond application process for Community Justice Outreach Workers and justice specialists. Since 2023 the Community Justice staff have been assisting community members outside Nunavut with peace bond applications. This has increased access to justice and provides more options to protect the safety and security of Nunavummiut dealing with abuse and violence. In 2023 2024 Community Justice Outreach Workers and justice specialists assisted in the application and hearing process for 31 peace bonds across the territory. If you're experiencing or have experienced threats, abuse, or violence, visit your local Community Justice Outreach Worker to discuss the remedies that may be available to you. If you or anyone you know are in immediate danger, contact your local Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Minister's Statement 464 – 6(2): Medical Travel Program and Policy Survey

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Good afternoon colleagues, Mr. Speaker. Community health and the travel arrangements for patients must be fixed. Nunavut is a small population and our communities are quite a distance from each other, and it makes it complicated for health. It's looking at improvements have been our goal, and I'm pleased to announce here today through questions and from the study we've had, a public survey conducted with a goal to review medical travel and looking at improvements on policies and concerning travel.

Through the survey, it opened the opportunity for Nunavummiut to share their experiences and the responses given to us will be a learning curve, what works and what seems to move ahead and where improvements must be made. For the medical team, this will make us move forward in every way improvements must be made for the new future, the problems that arise, obstacles for medical travellers when accessing medical travel service outside the territory is vital to improving medical travel for all.

We are looking for better ways to streamline services, address recurring systematic challenges, and looking at medical travel improve overall experiences within the system from the survey will help target efforts where they are needed the most. And these responses will derive from Nunavummiut for our work and to ensure the needs of Nunavummiut are met.

We are looking forward to hearing from Nunavummiut. I encourage Nunavummiut who have experience with medical travel as a client or escort to participate with their voice in the survey and will make or lead to positive changes. Those who complete the survey will be entered to win \$100 gift cards from their local grocery store. The survey started on October 21st and will remain open until midnight on December 2, 2024. A link to the online survey is available on the GN health website, under the heading "Medical Travel Survey", and also on social media and is translated in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and French.

As mentioned your input is valuable and comes from Nunavummiut, and together we can make a positive impact on the future of the medical travel program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Minister's Statement 465 – 6(2): Bachelor of Social Work Graduation in Cambridge Bay

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut who are watching the sitting. Mr. Speaker, last week the second cohort bachelor of social work program students graduated in Cambridge Bay. I rise to congratulate Tandau Agnavigauq (ph), Chenise Nakayuk (ph), Pauline Soukuq (ph), Pauloosie (ph), Presley (ph), Taylor (ph) and Clarissa Quiyatuk Vandenbrink (ph). Ellis Isaquaq (ph) will also be graduating from the program in 2025.

As members are aware, the bachelor of social work program is delivered through a partnership between the college and Memorial University to build a pool of individuals to work with the Nunavut social work field.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we are making solid progress towards the important goal. Soon there will be 11 graduates from this program, and I am so happy to report there are ten more students enrolled in the third cohort of the bachelor of social work program in Cambridge Bay this fall.

May our graduates lead with compassion, courage, and a deep sense of purpose. The future of social work in Nunavut shines brighter because of each and every one of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 466 – 6(2): New Water Treatment Plants

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon Nunavummiut, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, in 2023, the Nunavut government developed a new comprehensive drinking water strategy that outlines the requirements and objectives to achieving a sustainable drinking water supply that meets the highest standards as described in Health Canada's multi barrier approach to the treatment and protection of drinking water in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative includes an integrated system of procedures, processes, and tools that collectively prevent the contamination of drinking water from source to tap, that will reduce the risk to public health. The strategy recognizes the vital role that water treatment plans play in meeting this goal. My department is working with local governments to provide assistance in water quality monitoring programs and has engaged the best resources available to develop a new generation every water treatment plans in our communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my department delivered a state of the art water treatment plant to the community of Whale Cove that meets the challenge of meeting the unique water source available to the hamlet. I am pleased to share that the plant is performing and meeting the highest of expectations.

>> *Applause*

Hear, hear. Mr. Speaker, in the Qikiqtaaluk my department as completed the planning and is currently designing four new water treatment plants. Plants in Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord are anticipated to be in service as early as the summer of 2027, and plants in Pond Inlet and Sanikiluaq are scheduled to be brought online the following year. These new facilities will greatly enhance existing community water treatment.

Mr. Speaker, in the Kivalliq my department expects to deliver a new facility for Rankin Inlet in late 2027. In the Kitikmeot improvements to the Kugluktuk water treatment plant intake are also underway, with completion scheduled for 2027.

Mr. Speaker, with the delivery of improved technology comes an increase in cost. My department is leading the way in taking a collaborative approach in identifying how to improve project delivery by working with consultants, logistics experts, and contractors

to identify new strategies for reducing costs and delivery time for vital infrastructure projects to our most remote communities. My department is engaging with their facilities operations expertise during project design to ensure water treatment plants continue to operate efficiently with minimal costs and service disruption throughout their service life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I look forward to providing further updates in the coming months on the progress of these important capital projects to develop the highest standard of water quality within our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Item 3: Members' Statements

Speaker: Item 3, Members' Statements. Before we proceed, Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq, won't be in today due to an airline cancellation. He should be in the House on Monday.

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

Member's Statement 630 – 6(2) Addressing the Tragedy of Suicide

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon Pond Inlet residents and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the difficulty and hardship we face in our community because of suicide. Mr. Speaker, my constituencies of Tununiq has experienced an ongoing tragedy of suicide followed by suicides I love them dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also grateful for the services through GN, Ilisaqsivik team from Clyde River that came to the community to help address the trauma. They even extended their stay to provide additional support.

Mr. Speaker, as members we cannot fix everything in the world; however, as community members, through collaboration and working together, we can make strides and we can bring forward solutions. If you're going through difficulties or hardship or are at a loss, do not hesitate to approach social workers or an elder or your closest friend. Mr. Speaker, we have to work together and care for one another. I will have questions under question period to the minister who is responsible for suicide prevention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member's Statement 631 – 6(2) Appreciation of Premier's Visit

Mr. Quqqiaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today that on the date of September 9 and September 10, 2024 to acknowledge our Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Akeeagok, who visited my constituent community of beautiful Kugaaruk, and completed his visit to the constituencies of Netsilik.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for my constituents as well as myself and it means a lot, and I thank him greatly. Mr. Speaker, first day was meeting with the hamlet councillors and mayor, followed by a feast and drum dance to welcome our premier. Mr. Speaker, the next day was meeting with the housing board of doctors and manager, and afterwards 23 were gifted with beautiful carvings made by Alina Tungilik, which the board of directors gifted us greatly in appreciation for our visit. Thank you, Kugaaruk Housing board of directors and Alina Tungilik.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, we also visited Arviligjuaq which we toured the school and visited classrooms and spoke with students and teachers. And Mr. Speaker, what struck me most and made me humble and proud was to see that there is a breakfast and lunch program for the students, and that means food to eat for the students and to see them happy and proud. And it allows them to learn and function greatly throughout the day. It's great.

We also had meeting with a District Education Authority and I thank them greatly for making decisions and programs for Arviligjuaq students.

Mr. Speaker I thank the Dua (ph) sisters who do the breakfast and lunch programs. We had lunch also and the food is great. And thanks to the Jordans principle for funding to help Arviligjuaq students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Members' Statements**Member's Statement 632 – 6(2): Successful Bowhead Hunts in Naujaat and Coral Harbour**

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon my colleagues and my constituents, Naujaat and Salliq. Have a good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my pride to the constituents in our community who were able to catch a bowhead in the month of July, and in Naujaat at the end of August a

bowhead was also caught. It fed many people in the community, and people were very pleased so I would like to express our gratitude and that there were no incidents in the hunt. The bowhead caught in Naujaat was a huge one and a smaller one caught in Salliq. And it was a great joy for the community and I would like also for our to express our joy to that hunt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member Statement. Member for Iqaluit Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 633 – 6(2): Issues with Income Support

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues; Nunavummiut viewing our proceedings, *tunngasugit*.

Mr. Speaker, over my seven years in office, I believe I've demonstrated my commitment to equality, especially important when it comes to government policy and expenditure of public funds. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the biggest inequality in Nunavut is the disparity of the haves and have nots, and Mr. Speaker, I'm referring specifically to the 40 percent of Nunavummiut who are dependent on income support. With our staggering rates of poverty, I've begun to place more emphasis on increasing Nunavut's standard of living and overall quality of life.

Mr. Speaker the problem and the solution to these is simple: A significant proportion of adult working aged Nunavummiut are not participating in the workforce. Of importance to note is that the largest demographic income support clients are in the 18 to 35 age category, which is unfortunately the backbone of our labour force.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that until the day that Nunavummiut have all the skills and qualifications necessary to fill all of our positions, especially hard to fill positions, we will be dependent on imported labour. However, Mr. Speaker, the more complex question that I would like to help the government to try and address is why is it in our largest communities every employer across every sector, including the Government of Nunavut, is facing chronic staff shortages which is crippling our services.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker I would like to give notice to the minister that I will be asking the appropriate questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 634 – 6(2): Progress on Elders Strategy

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, all. People of Baker Lake, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the government's slow progress on implementing its Elders and Seniors Strategy. Mr. Speaker, on March 7 of this year the Premier announced the completion of Nunavut Elders and Seniors Strategy, which was over two years in the making. The strategy identified 89 action items to address needs identified by elders, elder committees, government officials, consultants, and others. Despite the sense of urgency described by the premier in his March 7 announcement, there has been limited progress to date. The government is running out of time to fully implement the strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I do acknowledge that a couple of weeks ago the premier provided an update on the five specialized vans being purchased to provide elders with improved mobility. This fulfills a portion, 20 percent actually, of one of the 89 action items in the strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the need for transportation for elders and people with disabilities in our communities has been raised time and time again. In May, my colleague from Uqummiut very eloquently described this urgent need in her constituency. I myself I raised the need for this kind of service in Baker Lake, a community with one of the highest number of elders in Nunavut.

On March 11 the premier himself stated in this House that the need for elder vans was brought up in the communities of Taloyoak, Baker Lake, and Arviat during his visits. However, it is the communities of Pangnirtung, Coral Harbour, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit that have been selected to receive elder vans. It is not clear what criteria were used to determine that these specific community would receive elder vans as a priority. The three regional centres in particular have no shortage of transportation options.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just about done my member statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Mr. Speaker, it is also not clear what process was followed to implement this action. On May 24 the premier stated in this House that they had received 13 expressions of interest in providing elder vans in Nunavut communities. However, his recent October 11 news release indicated that only four groups had submitted proposals. The release stated that, "a selection committee of senior officials chose a group that by Northern Futures Skills Development which partners with Arctic Training Limited and Caribou Cabs".

Mr. Speaker I am disappointed at how the Nunavut elder strategy has been implemented to date. I hope that we will be soon seeing much more action over the next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Anavilok.

Member's Statement 635 – 6(2): Appreciation of Search and Rescue Volunteers

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): I'm going to speak in English to say hi to (no interpretation)

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that my brother was travelling to Cambridge Bay from Kugluktuk, and he's lost on way. I just want to thank all the searchers and Cambridge Bay Rescue, even the searchers from Ottawa. I just want to thank them all for trying to help out. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 636 – 6(2) Happy Birthday to Uncle Allen

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker. I wish everyone in Cambridge Bay a wonderful fall. It's a special day, Mr. Speaker, for a few people in our families. Mr. Speaker, it's my mom's cousin Allan's 82 birthday today, so happy birthday to Uncle Allan. He's in Ottawa at the Embassy West. He turned 82. This girl's familiar with this House and I really want her to feel happy and the love for everybody, and especially to my mom for her unwavering support and to be with us on her birthday is really special. So thank you, Mom, for being here with us and thank you for all the love that you give to everyone and its our day to give our love to you, so thank you. Quana, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member statement. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Member's Statement 637 – 6(2) Long Term Service Awards Recipients

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back, colleagues. I hope you had a very good summer. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and I would like to acknowledge several Long Term Service Awards recipients. When the award ceremony was held here in Iqaluit on October 17, it was a wonderful event and a great turnout with some extremely proud

public servants, who many were Inuit, showcasing our ongoing efforts to the objectives of article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

One of the recipients who received their 45 year award is a teacher in Inuujaq School. Several of the MLAs weren't even born yet, including myself, by the time Piujuq Enoogoo started working. And I'm extremely proud of her long, outstanding contributions to her community members and to the Government of Nunavut. Wow, 45 years of service. What a great accomplishment.

Many of the award recipients were also Inuit language advocates who were also teachers from our communities. I have profound appreciation for our Inuit teachers who have paved the way for our children, in terms of preserving the Inuit language.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a constituent member from Sanikiluaq who received 20 years of service award which so happens to be my mother, Mary Qappik. My mother was my second grade teacher. I have to say I was disciplined more than my peers, in a very good way.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, she pushed me to be successful in education. She knows and knew how education is important. For that reason I want to thank her for her long term service, and congratulations to the rest of the award recipients who came to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Member's statement. Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Member's Statement 638 – 6(2) Jordan's Principle Funding

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it's nice to be in the same room with all my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to show some respect and appreciation for a young man who has given so much for us, a young man, a young boy who has given so much for all Aboriginal people across this country, all Aboriginal youth across this country. And that's a young man, a young boy, Jordan River Anderson.

Mr. Speaker, Jordan's Principle was established by First Nations in response to the death of a five year old Jordan River Anderson, a child from Norway House Cree Nation who suffered from Carey Fineman Ziter syndrome, a rare muscular disorder that required years of medical treatment in a Winnipeg hospital.

After spending two years of his life in hospital, doctors cleared Jordan to live in a family home near the hospital in Winnipeg. However, the federal and provincial governments could not resolve who was financially responsible for the necessary home care.

For two years, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada and Manitoba provincial government continued to argue, while Jordan remained in the hospital.

In 2005, sadly, Mr. Speaker, at the age of five, Jordan died in the hospital. He never had the opportunity to live in a family home.

Mr. Speaker, it's because of this tragedy that all of the communities, many communities across Nunavut are getting Jordan's Principle funding to be able to help feed, clothe, and support the youth in our communities across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that when we get these funds every month, or however often that they receive this Jordan's principle, that we do not forget the reason why we are able to get this. Sadly, it's because young Jordan is not with us today.

I just wanted to show respect for this young man and his family, and just remind all Nunavummiut and those who take Jordan's principle support that they give respect to young Jordan and his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 639 – 6(2): Birth of New Granddaughter

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps today, while we are focussing on our grandchildren today, and I was very pleased with your statement earlier.

On October 19th, my daughter Minnie had a newborn baby, a baby girl. Esa Kolit, her husband, was there. Everyone is fine and I'm the elder now of the family, and my wife is now the grandmother. And we were very happy that we have them here now. Robin Kolit, the other grandfather, can't wait to see his grandchild.

For a time now we haven't had a grandchild and many have passed away, and those who we were close to dearly we want to touch, Mr. Speaker. If I'm going to spell out his name, I won't have enough time. I may have to extend my time. Let us welcome our new grandchild, Wendy Mae Tanisha Gale Towaga Qappik Atuat Kalluk Kolit Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4, Returns to Oral questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the returns to oral questions numbers 866, 871, 876, 909, all of which were announced during the Spring 2024 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to recognize Manitok Thompson, who is the executive director for IBC. I was privileged to know Manitok during my time as board of director for IBC, and I have learned a lot from Manitok greatly, so I wanted to welcome her to the House, Mr. Speaker. I thank her greatly for helping my greatly to become the man that I wanted to be. Thank you, Manitok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise today to acknowledge my mother, Suzy Fletcher, and my daughter Kinnuq Tuunuq (ph), into the House today. Wishing my mom a very happy birthday. I'm so happy that my little one gets to grow up before the eyes of everyone and recognizes people, and is always happy to come into the office. I thank the premier and the Legislative Assembly for having her grow up in here as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: And welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Those already recognized I want to repeat, Manitok Thompson, I would like to acknowledge her for coming to this House. It's great you can be back and be here with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Again, welcome to your Assembly. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 914 – 6(2): Income Support Clients

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member's statement, my questions today are for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, the solution to bringing Nunavummiut out of poverty, increasing our standard of living and overall quality of life is by getting capable bodied income support clients to join the workforce. Unfortunately, information on income support clients is very hard to find.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services Poverty Reduction Annual Report as well as Department of Family Services' website contains a lot of words, positive words on accomplishments over the last year with regards to poverty reduction, but does not include basic relevant information such as income support demographics, new clients, or diverted clients.

I would like to ask the minister if she would be able to provide the House with an update on current aggregate information on income support clients and elaborate as to why that information is not currently public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the colleague for the question. With the age category who receive income support, we normally have the data available, and with regards to families that receive support are different or in variation, some with family. And we look at the number of the family members, and there are numbers there are not there. We do have the numbers but they are not all listed in our web site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, the information with regards to income support clients is very difficult to come by, as well as being very pertinent and relevant, not just to us here in the Legislative Assembly, by to our communities and our employers.

Some of the issues with regards to income support and poverty reduction is the fact that a majority of our youth, working age Nunavummiut, are on income support. And as I

previously mentioned, the annual report and the department's web site does not have information on the amount of Nunavummiut who are aging in every year, or the amount of Nunavummiut income support clients who have successfully diverted themselves from income support.

I would like to ask the minister to commit to providing that information in all future annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank you for your question. When we are talking about how many clients we've had in a year, sometimes each month, I'll give you an example, for August we would have over 4,000 clients, and in another month, September, we could have the number increase and another month decrease.

So even if we're looking at how many clients we have seen throughout the year, the numbers are never the same numbers, either because in a community there might be, and I'll give an example. In Arctic Bay during the narwhal hunting season, that really helps to decrease the clients in the community. Or in another community there might be mining in some areas where the numbers might change.

So we do have numbers that fluctuate but we do have numbers in terms of the age categories as well, and I would like to give that. For the month of September from ages 18, there were 205 clients; from 19 to 26, there were 1,348 clients; 27 to 44, there were 2,043 clients.

I do agree, when the member talks about positions that are not being filled within the government, unfortunately we see that across the table. Even if it's a non government organization, if it's a business, businesses are struggling to hire people all across the board. So it's not just within the government, unfortunately. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for the response. I absolutely agree; as I mentioned, in our largest communities across every sector, every employer is suffering with recruitment and retention issues. However, in those exact same communities, there are hundreds of income support clients that are likely capable of working and filling those positions or jobs that do not require specific qualifications.

I would like to ask: What is the Department of Family Services' position as to why income support clients that are able and capable of working in our largest communities

are not applying and being hired, and in essence being diverted off income support?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your question.

(interpretation ends) When we are talking about other communities, for example the smaller communities, there are very few jobs coming out in some of the community. There are either no positions coming out at all, so we see dependency on income assistance benefits, if that's the case.

In terms of what does the Department of Family Services do to help clients to get them out of income assistance, we do provide training, funding supports. We do provide other funding to try and push clients to get out of income assistance, and when we're talking about the last couple of years, the trials that we've had to face in the territory, or even world wide when we're talking about the mental health increasing, we need more mental health clients, there was a huge increase in terms of mental health when we were going through COVID.

So some of the issues that we do see, the inflation of food costs in the territory, that also has an impact on the increase of IA clients. So there are different impacts that we see that are affecting our people in the territory, and unfortunately, like I said, it really fluctuates in terms of client numbers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 915 – 6(2): Boil Water Advisories

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, on October 16 the boil water advisory in Rankin was finally lifted after 96 days. This must have been a big relief for the community. Apparently this was the longest boil water advisory in effect in Nunavut communities this year. Then on October 17 a boil advisory was announced for the community of Coral Harbour.

Can the minister provide an overview of what factor leads to boil advisory in communities like Rankin and Coral Harbour? And can the minister explain why residents may be required to boil their water for such a long period of time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the colleague for raising this issue.

(interpretation ends) This work is handled through our environmental health services staff. Our environmental health officers within the department, they provide guidance and recommendations to protect Nunavummiut against food and water borne illnesses. And so in terms of the boil water advisories, there can be numerous different issues that are detected through the regular sampling of the water supply at the community level, and our environmental health officers work closely with the service provider. In some cases it's the municipality who will collect the water samples; in some cases it's the Department of Community and Government Services staff. In Iqaluit's case I believe it's the city of Iqaluit.

There are standards that are established in terms of water quality, and whenever samples are deviating from those standards, they would trigger a boil water advisory.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister for the response. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that it is critical to ensure that our water supply is safe for consumption. Boil water advisories are important to reduce the risk to our health. Can the minister provide an update on how many boil water advisories have been issued in Nunavut in 2024 and how many are still in effect? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member for his question.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the request for that information for the year 2024, I would have to go back and request that information from the department. As the Member mentioned in his opening statement there, you know, some boil water advisories can be in place for a longer period, depending on the underlying nature of the issue that's causing the water quality concerns, and some can be quite short. If it is, in Baker Lake's example, as an example there's a regularly occurring turbidity, silt or mud in the water that comes down when the river opens up in the spring, and it's kind of an annual event so in that case, in Baker Lake's example, those tend to be a limited duration and once the water supply clears out, or hoopiuk (ph), once it clears out, that clear itself up. But if it's something to do with the water treatment plant itself or the source of the water, Whale Cove being a good example, it can be a longer term boil water advisory.

We know that communities do get tired of these boil water advisories. We work very closely with the service providers to try and find remedies, and to try and assure the public that the water coming out of the tap is safe to drink. At the end of the day, this is all done out of an abundance of caution and wanting to protect Nunavummiut from potential harm. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am sad to note that the number of communities in southern Canada have been facing boil advisory much longer than any other community in Nunavut has ever had to deal with. We are very fortunate that our government works hard to redeem water issue as soon as they occur.

However, it does not seem that they are occurring in Nunavut more frequently. Can the minister tell this House how his department monitors the possible health impact in those communities where the water supplies have been concentrated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of that specific question and the specific scenario, I don't have that level of detail with me today. I can commit to the Member to seeking that information from within the department. I can say that, advisory in place or not, health staff are continually monitoring what they're seeing at our health facilities across the territory in terms of trends, whether it's infectious diseases, things stomach flu, they can spread in the community very quickly, whether it's influenza or other communicable diseases. That also applies to gastrointestinal issues that could, could be related in theory to water issues.

But Mr. Speaker, like I stated earlier, the important role of the regular water sampling, testing and working with the service providers, that's on the front end to prevent harm and prevent issues from affecting Nunavummiut. And I thank all our environmental health officers across Nunavut for their work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 916 – 6(2): Naja Isabelle Home

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, Naja Isabelle Home in Chesterfield Inlet was closed after a critical incident in early 2024. The minister has indicated that an investigation and a third party review were being conducted. Can the minister provide an update on the status of the

investigation and tell us what lessons were learned during the review of practices and protocols at the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. 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.

(interpretation ends) I could certainly get back to the Member in terms of the investigation report on that. Last I know we were still waiting for the RCMP to give us the feedback on the investigation.

In terms of what have we learned from that investigation, it is pretty obvious that the Department of Family Services need to continue investigating our contracts with the organizations that take care of our people that are in their facilities, to ensure that they are safe and healthy, and we will continue to do that, because we are accountable for the safety of people who are in our care. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was glad to see the government issued not one, but two requests for proposals to resume operations at Chesterfield Inlet's group home. However, it appears that the contract has not yet been awarded. Can the minister provide an update how many entities responded to the request for proposals to operate a group home in Chesterfield Inlet and what plans are currently in place to resume the delivery of the services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the member for his question.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the request for proposal, that is open until the end of this month so we will see further what happens after that. But I do understand that there is some major repairs that need to be done in the building as well at this current time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that it has not yet been possible to resume services at the Chesterfield Inlet group home. A number of Chesterfield Inlet residents have training and experience working in this field. Will the minister commit to working with her colleagues, especially the Minister of Health, to

explore different options for the group home facility to provide such services as elders care or other specialized care? 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. In regards to the previous employees who worked there, they were not government employees but our staff went to visit the facility and had discussions with the previous workers. They had also talk shows, and we are looking at reviving those services. But I do believe that people who are trained to work in those facilities could be very helpful. We will take another look at it and look at different options with the previous workers if they should want to get into those positions. I'm not exactly sure how it's going to proceed but we will be looking into the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 917 – 6(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Activities in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, as the member of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Netsilik, I have been a consistent advocate for action to address the housing shortage in the Kitikmeot communities that I am proud to represent.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association issued an announcement in May of this year concerning the signing of a new partnership agreement, which is intended to "deliver a new initiative called the Nunavut pathway to Nunavut home ownership pilot program."

Mr. Speaker, during our spring sitting I emphasized the importance of ensuring that innovative programs like this be accessible to residents of all of Nunavut communities, not just those who live in regional centres. Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify the timeline for expanding this program to other communities in the Kitikmeot region, including Kugaaruk and Taloyoak? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question and the line of questioning on that. You know, Mr. Speaker, when we signed that agreement with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to work with the association to try to ensure that we're not just building social housing and public housing but also private homes, and this is a great opportunity and an example of how we could work through the Nunavut Housing

Corporation to enable families to afford and to be able to live in their own home that they could maintain and grow in and out of.

The four-plex, or the four houses, individual units that we worked on in Kugluktuk is a very good example of that. This pilot project is proceeding. The corporation and Kitikmeot Inuit Association are continuing to work with the clients there and make this project work.

Mr. Speaker, in response to my colleague's question, we are continually looking to see if there are other homes that are available to be purchased and co-purchased I guess, and purchased through the corporation and with local people to be able to buy houses. That's continuing. It's not aimed at just regional centres, it's aimed at any community we can support that has homes that would create interest to turn into private homes. That work continues, Mr. Speaker, and the corporation is working and talking with the private sector to be able to enter into these kind of agreements to create more private home ownership in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqiaq.

Mr. Quqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member for the Legislative Assembly for Netsilik, I am proud to have been able to vote to approve millions of dollars in capital funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to construct new public housing units in the Kitikmeot and other regions.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced in April of 2023 that 20 new public housing units will begin instruction in Taloyoak in the fall of 2023, and up to today I see no foundation yet to build on. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of these new units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are at the very early stages of Nunavut 3000. I had stood in this House and said there are going to be times when we stumble and/or fall, but we have to pick up and keep going.

There are issues that arise in many different communities for one reason or another that create delays in construction. One of the main ones is the availability of land and land preparation for the units to be able to be erected on and this was the situation on two communities this year, Mr. Speaker. One of them is Taloyoak, the other is Gjoa Haven where the construction was delayed because the land was not prepared enough to be able to start the construction on. Since then, Mr. Speaker, we're back on track and we anticipate that the units in Taloyoak will be completed by the spring 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will also recall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced in January of 2024 that eight new public housing units would begin construction in Kugaaruk in the fall of 2024. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update today on the status of these new units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work continues in Kugaaruk. We anticipate some of the units will be or should be completed by the spring or fall of 2026, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaerner.

Question 918 – 6(2): Progress on Elders Strategy

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) I have raised this issue a number of times in the House since I got elected and it's very clear that the community of Sanirajak needs a new school. Now, will the minister agree with me the community of Sanirajak will get a new school when it comes to capital infrastructure spending? Can the minister agree with me that the community of Sanirajak needs a new school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker, and quana to our colleague for that question. We do, at the Department of Education, always have a number of schools that need to come forward, whether they're in construction or come through the pre planning phase, Mr. Speaker, and we have schools in two different categories, either for being crowded or in poor conditions.

We have the schools in future consideration, and the community of Sanirajak for the school there is in future consideration. I can't give a timeline, but I know the department is aware and is considering the community's school to go forward into pre planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the consideration given, although a direct yes is not there, but it's considered for the future.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I understand that a number of criteria needs to be evaluated before the decision can be made to build a new school in the community. Can the minister provide an update on when the department last evaluated the growing size of the Sanirajak school population and overcrowding in the school classrooms and hallways, and the deteriorating physical conditions of the current school, and tell us how the evaluation was used to determine Sanirajak needs a new high school.

Can the minister give me a clear of how this has been put in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We are always looking to advance projects for pre planning, and we have considerations, as I mentioned previously, depending on the school's utilization, so we know the condition from condition ratings with our partner department, Community and Government Services. When those condition ratings of our buildings are complete, we can assess where the utilization and how the school is.

But we do take an annual information and know how our school is based on a number of factors, including how many students are enrolled in the school for the number of square footage for the building. We have previously changed our standards to go from head count to going towards changing the number so that we have more space for our students, that we don't come into overcrowded situations.

We do always want to advance our projects, Mr. Speaker, but unfortunately this 2025 2026, no projects for education were considered for pre planning, which is unfortunate for our schools, but we do always advocate for them and look for outside resources as well through the federal stream to see if we can support our schools and the much needed infrastructure that is always there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaerner.

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although a response is not given, when was the last evaluation was in a way responded to, yes, students, when they're in enrolled and that's how they are evaluated.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, very confident that in a recent evaluation of Sanirajak school will show us all quite clearly that Sanirajak needs a new high school. And Mr. Speaker, when it comes to these kindergartens, when it comes to a full day class for these kindergartens, I don't think that the community, that the school will be able to handle these children that are attending the kindergarten. And by the time it is introduced with

all these communities, that the kindergarteners will be going to school every day. And so it's unfortunate that when it comes to these capital projects, capital planning cycles, I mean.

Can the department or can the minister come into introduce a new project for Sanirajak in the capital, on the next capital planning cycle as the minister has indicated that it will come to a future consideration? But can the minister clearly explain why won't the department make the community of Sanirajak a priority when it comes to getting a new school with the capital planning cycle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We are always advocating for our schools. We have 45 schools across the territory that are in all different levels of utilization and condition. For the member's information, the condition rating of the school in his constituency community of Sanirajak is at 61 percent. And I know that, as I mentioned, we have the project on consideration for pre planning, and it takes a cycle to go through the government to get projects onto the capital plan, and I know the department staff is working very hard to ensure we have projects coming forward every year.

We do want to see the school of Sanirajak included in the future for the pre planning phase along with three other communities, so we are always thinking ahead, and we do take his comments. And I know my staff are listening, and we hear what he has to say. We have a lot of students to consider, schools to consider, but we have heard his comments, and thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 919 – 6(2): Addressing the Tragedy of Suicide

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for suicide prevention. Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my member's statement, the community of Pond Inlet has experienced the ongoing tragedy of suicide, followed by suicides. While we mourn their death, there are other others who have tried to take their own lives but are still with us, and they need our help.

Can the minister describe how his department collects information on the number of attempted suicides in the community and what specific actions are taken at the community level to evaluate the situations when there is a steady increase in the number of individuals who attempt to take their own life? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for suicide prevention, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): I would like to thank the member for the question. It's a very heavy subject and I would first of all like to send my condolences to the people of Pond Inlet who are experiencing tragedy and we wish them a better future.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of monitoring mental health, and specifically suicide, Health is implementing a suicide monitoring system. The surveillance system started as a pilot project in Kugluktuk in 2022, and has since expanded to all communities in the Kitikmeot. I'm pleased that we have started expanding the system to the Qikiqtaaluk this past November 2023, about a year ago. We don't have all communities in Kitikmeot region as part of the surveillance system yet. Communities are being added as we bring staff on stream, in terms of the training that's required.

The aim of this project is to create an integrated surveillance system that links community efforts to territorial goals, monitors progress, and prevents suicide and self harm and it's intended so that we can feed the information back into the system so that we can respond more effectively. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the minister. It is very hard to talk about suicide.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I feel strongly that we must tackle the tragedy of suicide head on. We must talk about it. We must let the people know about the impact of suicide really looks like. We need to talk about how many people's lives have been lost to this completely preventable event. We need to be prepared to give hope to those who are contemplating suicide.

My colleague from Iqaluit Sinaa posed an important question on suicide, and I appreciate reading the minister's response that he tabled in May. Can the minister clarify whether information on suicides or suicide attempts can be prevented at the community level? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for suicide prevention, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I might have missed something. I just didn't quite get the question that the member was asking. If she could please clarify the question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Can the member please clarify your question.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify whether the information on suicide and suicide attempts can be provided at the community level? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for suicide prevention, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of information around suicide and suicide attempts at the community level, if the member's asking for, you know, a community by community breakdown of the statistics, I would have to look into that. I believe that our numbers that are available publicly are aggregate, so they don't identify specific communities. And there is, in terms of statistics being used at the community level, when there is a strong relationship within a community, if it's with the hamlet and health centre staff or a strong interagency committee at the community level, there can be information that is shared or information that is considered general knowledge, particularly in small communities. You know, sad news can spread quickly and it wouldn't necessarily be that hard find out the statistics at a community level for folks who are in the community.

But as for the question of a community by community breakdown, I can commit to seeking that information and looking to clarify my response at a further date for the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Nutarak.

Ms. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate the information on the sensitive topic and must be used in protective, healthy, and culturally appropriate ways. I completely understand that privacy and confidentiality issues must be taken into consideration. However, when tragedy strikes over and over again, when one suicide leads to another and then another and then another, drastic steps must be taken to inspire people and community to challenge this epidemic. The raw numbers tell the story. Those numbers have a powerful message to share. (interpretation) But I would like to ask the minister, (interpretation ends) will the department have programs for community support specifically to each community to prevent this tragedy? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for suicide prevention, Minister Main.

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

(interpretation ends) Specific work targeted to community needs, I mean, that's an overarching goal of the department, is specifically Inuusivut mental health and addiction. We are working more and more with our community partners, whether it's a municipality,

whether it's a local men's group, local youth group, and it's incredible to see the work that's being done. There are huge challenges and very heavy loads that are being carried.

But on the other hand, as the member mentioned, we have to provide hope. I spoke earlier this week at the fourth annual trauma treatment symposium down the road here, and there were over 80 attendees. And you saw people from right across Nunavut. You saw many, many Inuit who are working on the front lines of mental health, and looking out of the crowd, I did feel that hope. It's very important, particularly for people who are struggling, to know that, you know, there is always someone to reach out to. There's always someone to speak to.

I hope that this answers the member's question in terms of community specific approaches. That is something that we are supporting through our Upitsi (ph) funding, through our Ati Angutiit (ph) initiative, through our work with funding Embrace Life on an annual basis, supporting the Umingmak Centre, as well as the ongoing work which is coming to an end. A release date for the suicide prevention action plan, which is coming very soon. So there is hope and I thank the issue for raising the issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 920 – 6(2): Progress on Elders Strategy

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions to the premier, who is also the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, I have raised concerns respecting the government's slow progress on its elders strategy. In March of this year the premier tabled the Nunavut Elders and Seniors Strategy, which identified 89 action items. Can the premier provide an update on how many of those 89 action items have been actioned to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank my colleague for questions regarding the Nunavut Elders and Seniors Strategy. The Elders and Seniors Strategy is something that very important, and was the first to be brought up in Nunavut. From then on, we have felt the urgency every providing that type of strategy for the elders, and I was very pleased that I was able to table the Nunavut Elders and Seniors Strategy. From then on I can say that this was approved Nunavut wide, and we're looking at the 87 action items and what can be implemented.

We are currently looking at the funding that's available, but I was pleased that we should implement this as soon as possible so we can provide support to our elders in Nunavut.

There are five communities where it has been initiated, but we have to look at the details and I'll make sure that we keep you updated on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago the Premier announced that five communities who would receive specialized vans to provide elders with improved mobility.

The October 11 news release states that four groups submitted proposals and that:

"A selection committee of senior officials chose a group led by Northern Future's Skills Development."

Can the Premier clearly explain why one entity was selected to provide van services in five communities instead of supporting and enabling local groups in those five communities to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Akeeagok, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank my colleague for the question. I was very excited to be able to announce the five communities that were selected. And I'm very thankful in terms of how quickly we mobilized to address the urgent need that was identified by our elders.

Mr. Speaker, the Member is right, we did do a call-out in terms of potential interested parties on June 6 of this year to solicit potential applicants to be able to deliver the vans to five communities. And during that process, there were four applicants that did provide their proposals. Two proposals in particular identified five communities, but the other two only provided one.

During that process, it was important to ensure that we selected an applicant that was able to deliver the five to five communities looking at the sealift ships that were available during the summer.

As such, the criteria was to look at one proponent to be able to deliver and to be able to take on the vans in those five communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the need for transportation for elders and people with disabilities in our communities has been raised time and time

again. When will the premier provide elder vans in those communities which have expressed the greatest need? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank my colleague for that question. As I had indicated in the spring, this is a very exciting pilot project where we are doing the elder vans in five communities to be able to demonstrate a need that's been identified by the elders.

Once that pilot program does start, we will really look at the needs assessments, in terms of where those communities require that service.

I have shared many times in this House I am very thankful for the suggestions that do come to us when we do community visits. Most recently Kugaaruk was one where it identified an interest as well. So I very much look forward to as we roll out the five vans now to continue to lobby and to learn from that experience and to really advocate for the other communities right across this territory.

So that work is ongoing, and I look forward to continuing to lobby that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Question 921 – 6(2): Departmental Positions

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today, and I have raised this question previously, but I would like an update on the questions I asked in the winter and spring sitting. My questions today are for the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, the government's most recent quarterly employment report indicates that the Department of Environment has a total of 14 positions located in my community of Igloolik. Only four of the positions are filled, and ten are vacant. This is a vacancy rate of over 70 percent.

Can the Minister provide an update today on which positions are currently filled and which positions are currently vacant. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment. Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the follow-ups, in terms of environmental vacancy rates across the community of Igloolik.

I can speak to the wildlife research station that is in Igloolik. There are currently nine vacant research positions in Igloolik. Out of the nine vacant positions, the vacant positions are based in Igloolik and for the wildlife conservation officer position, that is also vacant for Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister. (interpretation ends) It is my understanding that a number of these positions have been vacant for years, and that a number of the positions are very technical in nature.

I recently noted that the department has advertised for a wildlife biologist position that is eligible to work remotely out of the community. Can the Minister confirm how many of his department's Igloolik positions are eligible for remote work outside of the community or territory?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of the Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for that question. That's a very excellent question. A lot of those are research positions within our Department of Environment, for the research sector are specialized in nature. And we do have remote work policy where we can use to execute employment that is outside of the territory.

And for the member's question, the social science researcher has been vacant since 2014. Posting closed on September 2024 for staffing in Igloolik that can be placed on a three-year term outside of the territory.

Also the ecosystem research coordinator and environmental assessment biologist, that can also be remotely offered position for a three-year term outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary. Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister. I think we would prefer positions to be filled in the community.

(interpretation ends) When I last raise this issue during the spring sitting, I suggested that the government should consider transferring some of these long-standing vacant positions to another community where there would be a greater chance of them being filled by qualified applicants.

In return, new positions would be transferred to Igloolik and efforts would be made to ensure that they were the types of positions that could be reasonably filled with local applicants.

For example, the Inuit Language Authority's position could be a natural fit for the community.

When I raised this issue during the spring sitting, the Minister of Environment indicated that he was willing to discuss this idea with the Minister of Culture and Heritage. Can the Minister update me today on the results of his discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for the very good question.

I've spoken to both of my departmental executive level the possibility of moving a position from a department to a different department, and that's going to require conversations with my colleagues on this table, and on this side of the table.

Mr. Speaker, I do have a very good working relationship with my ministerial colleagues. And to the Member's question, yes, I do have engaged executive level conversations.

I can update to say that we have not gone as far as we can move these positions immediately. It requires a conversation with my cabinet colleagues whether we can move positions from department to department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 922 – 6(2): Breast Cancer Screening

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And good afternoon, Nunavummiut. My question at this time is for the Minister of Health.

This is regarding, Mr. Speaker, government's public service announcement that was made. A recent announcement was made regarding Breast Cancer Awareness Month in this month of October. It has been quite long since I raised this in the spring sitting, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Minister's response is focussed on his department's cancer screening program (no interpretation). It is good to see breast cancer being addressed.

Can the minister provide further detail on what kinds of cancers are currently the most prevalent in Nunavut, and which groups of people are most affected by these different type of cancers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for raising this issue. The public announcements that really benefit us, and I thank her for raising this.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in terms of the types of cancer that we're seeing in Nunavut, lung cancer is the most common cancer among Nunavummiut, and the high smoking rate in the territory contributes to this. So it's roughly three times the national average, unfortunately, in the territory.

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer affecting Nunavummiut. It accounted for 19 percent of cancer diagnosed between 1999 and 2011. Breast cancer accounted for 8 percent of the cancer cases diagnosed among female Nunavummiut between the same time period.

Mr. Speaker, as the member mentioned, we are developing colorectal cancer screening program. We're building it up and expanding it across Nunavut. Our plans are that once the colorectal screening program is established that we would use a similar approach to develop a formalized program for breast cancer screening. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary. Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has been an important issue and something that should be advocated and be addressed to me for Nunavut.

For that, Mr. Speaker, the announcement states that mammograms can find breast cancer early, before symptoms are noticed, which increases the chances of successful treatment.

(interpretation ends) The announcement also states:

"To help detect breast cancer early, women aged 50 to 74 are recommended to screen for breast cancer every two years", and I repeat, "breast cancer, women aged 50 to 74 are recommended to screen for breast cancer every two years."

Can the Minister clarify whether his department is now prepared to provide mammograms every two years to all women in Nunavut ages 50 to 74, and if not, why not. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague for her question. I'll respond in English, as I don't have all the terminology in Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) Mammography services and breast screening, Health does follow national guidelines in its approach to diagnostic imaging. There's two types of mammography: There's diagnostic and mammography and then there's screening mammography. Under the Nunavut Health Care Plan, diagnostic mammograms are used to diagnose a lump or suspicious area.

As I mentioned, we're currently without a formal, established cancer screening program. In terms of the member's question, what would it take to have the entire target population screened to meet the requirements, that would require a formal program. We are headed in that direction through the colorectal screening cancer program. Our intention is to use that program as a model to establish a breast cancer screening program, and currently the approach to breast cancer screening program, currently the approach to breast screening is to have it done opportunistically. There clients receive assistance to book mammography when they are travelling for other reasons, whether it's for personal reasons, whether it's for other medical needs, or even duty travel.

High-risk clients are provided this full suite of support, including travel support. So it's not only opportunistic screening, there's also targeting screening based on risk factors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for clarifying that, and the seriousness and the diligence that's needed and to see this rolling in would be great. And we have to be more committed today, even if women are in lower age. Anyone are now being impacted by the cancer.

(interpretation ends) With that, with only one mammogram machine in the territory, there are logistical issues and expenses related to providing mammograms to screen for breast cancer for all ages 50- to 74-year-old women across Nunavut.

However, the government's message to the public is that this screening should be done. Will the Minister commit to providing an update on his department's breast cancer awareness programs and what new plans, if any, are currently being considered for the screening, early detection and treatment for breast cancer among Nunavummiut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I can commit to providing that requested update. I would like to give my full support to our Chief Public Health Officer who is leading this work. There is some ongoing work in the area of breast cancer screening. I would be happy to share that update. I thank the Member for raising this issue. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 923 – 6(2): Benefits for Family Care Providers

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

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues will recall almost exactly one year ago I asked the Minister to consider implementing a family caregiver compensation program as a way to support elders to stay in their home communities. The Minister committed to looking into the idea. Can the Minister provide an update on on his department's progress in this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member for his question. We are currently working on this issue.

(interpretation ends) Health has conducted a jurisdictional scan about caregiver programs, and currently we're looking at a feasibility study. We're in the midst of a feasibility study looking at how we could implement this here, in Nunavut.

We received funding support from our federal partners for this, and it's part of the larger work around the elder strategy that was discussed earlier here, in the House.

And in terms of the source of funds, we've accessed the monies through the Territorial Health Investment Fund. And we are looking at, as I mentioned, a familial home care program. And the first step is or the first step was the jurisdictional scan. We're now in the feasibility study stage, and moving towards implementation would follow that study.

It is an area I know that's of interest to many Nunavummiut. I've had the privilege of travelling to Kugluktuk, and I really thank the MLA for facilitating some face-to-face time with elders in the community. It's very valuable to hear from community members right across the territory what the issues are that they're facing. It was a while ago that I was in Kugluktuk, but those stories are still with me, and I'm really happy to see the work proceeding on this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that. Mr. Speaker, the government's elder strategy was tabled in March. The strategy states on page 24 that the government "is committed to expanding and improving home care and health-related services for elders, including specialist services in communities."

The related list of action items includes making a wider range of home care programs and services available to train for Inuit in-home care, mental health, social work, and other care services, and supporting the development of disability training for elders, family members, and elder care providers.

Can the minister provide a brief overview of what specific steps have been taken to meet these specific commitments? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank you again for these questions.

So the work around the familial care program, it's part of the larger home care review that's ongoing. It's anticipated to be completed by the end of this fiscal year. And so that review is part of moving forward on things like, what we're looking at is increasing the hours of service for home care, increasing the days of the week that it's available, looking for ways to better support our employees in the home care field.

In terms of the education piece that the member was asking about, we are rolling out a new personal support worker program with our partners at Nunavut Arctic College, and we really appreciate their hard work on this.

So it's a hybrid program that can be delivered in person and/or on-line. And we continue to work with Nunavut Arctic College in terms of seeing continued online delivery of that program. And that's something that would go towards supporting not just our home care staff, but also those working in long term care or elder's home facilities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, last year when I asked the minister about setting up a caregiver compensation program, he indicated that his department needed to do a cross-jurisdictional scan. At that time a number of such programs were in effect across Canada.

Since then, the province of Prince Edward Island has also committed to funds for caregiver compensation.

Would the minister agree that enabling elders to stay at home with extra resources for the family members who are caring for them would be a good thing for Nunavut and commit to bringing forward a caregiver compensation program before the end of this Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I agree with the member in the terms of the desire to see more supports for family members and for elders in communities. I think we just have to look at the high cost of providing long-term care services.

I mean, it's money that's well spent, in terms of providing for elders within the long term care system, but at the same time we look at the high cost and it's an opportunity for us to seek ways to do things in a more holistic way to support families.

And I truly believe that here, in Nunavut, we have the opportunity to be amongst the best in the country, in terms of the supports that we provide to elders and their families.

So the commit part of the question, I'm going to have to dance around that a little bit, because the life of this government is less than a year now. In terms of the business planning cycle, I can't commit future governments to rolling out programs, but I can certainly commit to pushing this initiative to go as far as it can in the life of this government. And that's through the feasibility stage and moving towards either a pilot implementation or some sort of trial that can be rolled out hopefully as soon as possible. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware the time allotted for question period is now over. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked for unanimous consent to extend the Orders of the Day, number 6, oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are none. Apologies. Before we extend question period for another 30 minutes, we'll be taking a ten-minute break. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:45 and resumed at 15:59*

Speaker: Welcome back, everyone. Question period is now extended for another 30 minutes. The next name on my list, member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 924 – 6(2): CRTC Fibre Project Funding

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues for allowing me to get to my question today. Today my question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In July of this year the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission announced almost \$272 million in funding for the proposed new Kivalliq Baffin Connector Fibre Project, which would replace the Government of Nunavut's previous Kativik project.

While it wasn't explicitly mentioned in the Minister's news release of July 12, it did state that more information would be provided as they begin to meet the conditions of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's offer.

The federal announcement stated, and was more specific that "the funding is awarded to the Government of Nunavut with the condition that the applicant provides evidence of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's support."

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of his department's discussions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question from my colleague. Mr. Speaker, this announcement from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission was a very exciting announcement, and we have been hard at work on meeting the conditions that have been provided.

Early on we started engaging with Inuit organizations on this matter, and even up to today we've been having correspondences between our office as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well as regional Inuit associations.

It's an ongoing effort. Now we're trying to meet right up until November 1 deadline to provide the statement of work, as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate if Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is seeking an equity ownership stake in the fibre project, and if

so, will the organization be contributing any funding to the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit organizations have a high interest in this. We have four communities that we're targeting through this initiative.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and our correspondence, we do have a working group set to advance the work of the statement of work that the Canadian Radio Telecommunications Commission has provided. There is interest about having equity ownership in this fibre optic infrastructure. It's an ongoing discussion that we're having.

In my correspondence with the vice president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, there is discussions about financial contributions for this fibre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I checked my memory bank, and to the best of my recollection, this is the first time that the federal government has made funding for a Government of Nunavut proposed project conditional on the approval of a third party.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are a number of megaprojects on the horizon which will require federal investments to move forward, including the Iqaluit Hydro Electric Project, the Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Manitoba, Kivalliq Intercommunity Road Project and the Grays Bay Road and Port Project.

Can the minister confirm what other federally funded infrastructure projects will require the approval of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or other third parties, and can the minister indicate if the Government of Nunavut agrees with giving third parties an effective veto on our infrastructure plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. This is a first of its kind, from what I understand. It's kind of uncharted waters that we're trying to move forward with.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I don't know of any other federal funding announcements that have the stipulation where Inuit organizations or others have to have a stake in it.

But Mr. Speaker, those mega projects that my colleague speaks of, those are separate from this and are being pursued for other infrastructure funding at the federal level.

And so for the fibre optic link, trying to link Baffin and Kivalliq together, it is a new one. But also we are wanting to make sure that we work within the Canadian Radio-telecommunications Commission, the requirement that they've provided, and work with them on how best to put our foot forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 925 – 6(2): Status of Collective Bargaining

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to Iqaluit, everyone. My questions are for the new Minister of Human Resources, who's responsible for the [] Public Service Act and the government's collective agreements.

With the Nunavut Employees Union and the Nunavut Teachers Association, I think we're now on our fourth Human Resources minister of this government.

Mr. Speaker, as the new minister is aware, the current collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union was signed in August of 2022 and expired in September of 2024. That's a little over three weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, when I asked about the status of collectively bargaining in the spring sitting, the minister's predecessor indicated that there were no active negotiations taking place at the time. Can the minister provide a clear update today on the status of negotiations between the government and the union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the member for the question. It's a great question for collective bargaining. As we all know, those are so important agreements to work towards and to successfully negotiate agreements to enhance our workers, our employees benefits and collective agreement for Nunavummiut who fall under the Nunavut Employees Union.

I can say, Mr. Speaker, that negotiations have just started, and they started this week, so it's a great step that we have the negotiations started, and they are scheduled to meet once a month over the next several months until hopefully we come to an agreement next spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, her predecessor made a major announcement on the last sitting day of the recent spring sitting concerning the government's compensation review, which has resulted in a general pay increase for government employees in the bargaining unit, excluded employees and senior managers, which I believe people will be seeing on their pay cheque tomorrow. Can the minister clarify the extent to which this announcement has impacted or will impact the negotiations for a new collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question and the shout out to new compensation that will be provided to members for a 9 to 11 percent increase in pay. And it is correct; employees should see that come out in their cheques tomorrow.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I think people will be happy. But going forward it's hard to be pre-emptive in saying what else they might want. But I know both parties always work closely to strike a deal, and I hope that they are able to do that with the next scheduled five sessions that are coming forward.

So this salary increase this year, with that deal that was struck is beneficial, and we always want to retain our employees. And hopefully salary increases like that have just come forward will help retain employees and also recruit employees to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past couple of years the government has introduced a new Nunavut-wide hiring policy, a new out-of-territory remote hiring policy, and most recently a new tele-work policy which came into effect in June of this year.

Can the minister indicate what concerns, if any, have been raised by the unions in respect to the implementation of these policies and can she clarify the extent to which matters covered by the policies will be subject to negotiation as part of the current round of collective bargaining. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Human Resources, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for I think there was three questions in there from the member on that last question. Those are detailed questions that I have to ask the department for the specifics on. So I'll be committed to get back to the Member with the answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 926 – 6(2): Income Support Clients

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to my topic posed earlier to the Minister of Family Services regarding the diversion of income support clients.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the biggest demographic of income support clients in Nunavut are the age category of 18 to 35, which again is the backbone of our labour force, and yet employers in our largest communities are struggling to fill even the most basic positions, positions that require high school diploma, if that.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe our youth are choosing to live in poverty. Mr. Speaker, I believe that they just need a little assistance and some guidance to nudge them in the right direction. So I would like to ask to the Minister of Family Services what financial or non-financial incentives has the department considered to encourage income support clients, especially those who are able and willing and capable to work to join the workforce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your question.

(interpretation ends) What supports does the Department of Family Services do to employers to hire? I do apologize. I didn't understand the question clearly. Maybe if you could verify, that would be great (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Lightstone, please clarify your question.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The largest demographic in income support clients is 18 to 35. I do not believe our youth are choosing to live in poverty. I believe they need encouragement and guidance to nudge them in the right direction. So I would like to ask the Department of Family Services what financial and non-financial incentives is the department considering to assist income support clients to rejoin the work force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank you for that question.

(interpretation ends) We do have a high rate of high school graduations across Nunavut.

One of the programs that the department had offered and provided financial support was having an agreement with the Nunavut Arctic College to run a program, like the great program which is to improve their writing skills, reading skills, and also getting into trades if they needed to. So that's one of the programs that I could point out.

But also in the offices of the income assistance office, I know the income assistance workers do provide assessments to see if they need any other supports, in terms of job search, resume writing. Those are things that the income assistance can refer the clients to the career development officers to seek more employment within the community.

And also some of the programs that we do offer is having the career development officers visit the communities to see if they want to get into the apprenticeship field. So there's different programs that the department does to try and meet the age groups, especially the young ones, to see if they want to get into trades or training and education.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. The Department of Family Services does have some very good programs aimed at diverting income support clients, or getting Nunavummiut employed. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid that those programs aren't adequately meeting the desired intent. I still feel that there are far too many capable youth that are not employed in our communities that actually have employment.

So I would like to put forward a recommendation to the minister to consider financial incentives to get income support clients to join the work force. The Government of Nunavut does have generous recruitment and retention bonuses for hard-to-fill positions.

Mr. Speaker, on average, income support earners receive about \$10,000 from the Department of Family Services. And I believe, you know, putting a small amount of that towards a recruitment and retention bonus to allow income support recipients to join the work force would go a long way and have a much stronger economic impact than income support would have or the other income support diversion programs. So I would like to ask the minister if she would consider that financial incentive. 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 you for that question.

(interpretation ends) We could certainly take that into consideration. We also have to think how far we can utilize something like that because we want to make sure that the

employee stays with the employer. If we have incentive like that, what consequences or disadvantages it could have in that, but I will take that into notice.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 927 – 6(2): Notices on Power Outages

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, recently during the Thanksgiving weekend, I was in communication with the minister as we went through a power outage a couple of times during the Thanksgiving dinner meal prep, and I appreciate the workers that made sure that they got the power on and in due course. It was much appreciated. My turkey was almost done. But it all worked out okay.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is when I see other notices from other communities on outages, it typically gives a reason for it. An example, even in the minister's riding of Whale Cove, in October it said: "Crews are working to restore power due to a damaged power line."

Yet here, in Iqaluit, although we do get notices on social media that there's an outage, there's very little information that comes in after the fact.

I know that the minister, when we were chatting, there was a new gen set that was put in play. I know we talked recently I think there was an \$8 million advancement in updating the infrastructure at the power plant.

I would like to get a commitment from the minister that when there is an outage, not every time, but that weekend for sure my phone was blowing up like crazy because people were wondering how long the power was going to be out. They were trying to prepare their meals.

I would like to get a commitment from the minister that when those notices are put out after the fact, if there could be a little bit of follow-up so that residents can be assured that it's not a major infrastructure issue, whether it be a pole hit, or something like that. I would just like to get that commitment from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Member for his question.

(interpretation ends) In terms of the communications efforts that are made, my understanding is that there is a high priority or a high emphasis on timeliness where the communications staff will share the information that they do have available at the given time, and when there is no determined cause as to the power outage, whether it's a transmission issue, whether it's a generation issue, they will just put the notice out, as the member mentioned, saying there's an outage, work is continuing.

I can certainly commit to having some follow-up information provided by our communications staff in the case of Iqaluit outages. I have to give my full appreciation and thanks to them for the work that they do.

From time to time we're actually dealing with multiple outages in multiple regions, communities across the territory. And in terms of keeping the public informed and trying to keep them up-to-date, they do an excellent job. But I can commit to looking at what additional information we can provide for the Iqaluit outages. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make it my last supplementary. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to get a commitment from the minister to inform the Iqaluit MLA's if outages are expected to last an amount of time, if it's going to be a half hour or something like that, I can totally understand I know the comms team that you have a Qilliq Energy Corporation does a fantastic job of putting out notices out very, very quickly, and I thank the minister and his staff for that. I would like to get again another commitment from the minister to inform the Iqaluit MLAs when there's an outage that may be expected to last an hour or more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to providing the information that I do have on hand to an ongoing basis to all elected representatives, whether they are in Iqaluit or other communities.

Due to operational requirements, at the same time, I do put the emphasis on having my staff focussed on the job at hand, as opposed to keeping me, as minister, in the loop as to the minute-by-minute activities that they're working on. But, you know, I will commit to providing the information that I have on hand.

And certainly if an outage is going to be extended, I can understand why the member would want to have information provided so that they can pass it on to their constituents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 928 – 6(2): Airline Sector

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little bit less out of breath for this question. I appreciate the opportunity to ask a second question, because it gives me time to calm down from my nerves.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, as most people are aware here, I recently had the pleasure and the privilege of attending my little brother's wedding in Winnipeg a few weeks ago, and it was a beautiful ceremony and such a pleasure to be in the company of family and friends.

And, Mr. Speaker, I use the word 'privilege' very deliberately. As a resident of the capital city, I'm privileged to be able to travel by air at a price, that while not cheap, is one that residents of our smaller communities can only dream of. I feel for the minister whose own constituents in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay have to pay thousands upon thousands of dollars for return tickets. For a significant number of our residents that is simply unaffordable.

As the Minister is aware, the federal Competition Bureau recently launched a market study of competition in domestic air passenger services in Canada. Mr. Speaker, the government of Newfoundland and Labrador has already made a formal submission to the bureau concerning service to remote northern communities in that province. I promise I'm getting to my point.

The submission, which I'm sure the minister will join me in applauding, urges the Competition Bureau to be mindful of challenges with travel across all of Canada, particularly in the North. Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the House today that he will be making a formal submission to the federal Competition Bureau on behalf of the Government of Nunavut at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this matter, and whether we're doing a formal submission and by whom. It's definitely within our radar. But I'll look into it and report back to my member colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for that commitment. I think it's vitally important that we participate in this as Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, when the federal government approved the merger of First Air and Canadian North back in 2019, one of the conditions for approval was the establishment of an independent advisory board that had the mandate to report to the federal Minister of Transport.

In April of 2023, the federal government announced that it had agreed to new terms and conditions in relation to the merger. Can the minister confirm whether or not the independent advisory board is still in existence, and can he indicate how his department raises concerns regarding potentially monopolistic behaviour on the part of the airline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that advisory group ceased to exist. And in terms of working relationship between Canadian North and Calm Air, we go through medical and duty travel contract which has terms of conditions that are within that, and those are the perimeters that we are working with the two airlines, in terms of keeping the prices. And also I have an ongoing dialogue with both of the airlines, in terms of when they're trying to raise their prices and express our concerns through that.

The formal terms of conditions were lifted for Canadian North, and so that mechanism doesn't exist right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the competition alone is not the complete answer to making the cost of living more affordable for regular Nunavummiut. Most of our communities have at least two competing food retailers, but we know that the cost of groceries is often unbearable. And I'm going to stay on the subject, Mr. Speaker. I'll have questions for the government at another time that are specific to the recently announced federal review of the Nutrition North Canada program.

But my final question to this minister today is to ask him if the government's submission to the Competition Bureau will or can recommend the competition between air cargo services in the North can also be considered part of its market study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for asking these questions related to this. When it comes to the transportation and

transportation of moving people and our food go hand in hand, and when something like this does take place, and there is a formal review through the federal government, I'm sure that we will provide input and we'll take all aspects.

Typically we look at both of our passengers and our cargo. They do go hand in hand when it comes to the cost of living in Nunavut. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question period is now over.

Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk. Written questions, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

Question 008 – 6(2): Income Support Statistics

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written questions today are for the Minister of Family Services that pertain to income support statistics.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I would ask that they be entered into the Hansard as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do members agree? Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Item 7. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions.
Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 008 – 6(2): Ministerial Duty and Home Travel

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling Return to Written Question 8 – 6(2), which was asked during the spring 2024 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: 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. Ms. Brewster.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 290 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Federal and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Immigration**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of my correspondence of July 31, 2024 to the Prime Minister of Canada concerning delays in appointing Nunavut's new senator, deputy commissioner, and chief justice.

Subsequent to my writing to the Prime Minister, our new Deputy Commissioner was publicly approved, and I will join you today in congratulating Lew Phillip on that appointment, Mr. Speaker.

I continue to look forward to the appointment of our new senator and chief justice, and I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Lightstone.

Tabled Document 291 – 6(2): Exchange of Correspondence with the Federal and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Immigration

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table my recently exchanged correspondence with the federal and territorial ministers of immigration concerning issues and initiatives under their respective jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Tabled Document 291 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Reports on the review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Reports on the review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Tabled Document 293 – 6(2): Government of Nunavut's response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts of Nunavut

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2021-2022 Public Accounts of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk

Tabled Document 294 – 6(2): 2022-2023 Annual Reports of the Director of Child and Family Services, Family Wellness Division

Tabled Document 295 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Annual Reports of the Director of Child and Family Services, Family Wellness Division

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have two documents, the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 Annual Reports of the Director of Child and Family Services, Family Wellness Division. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Thank you. I have seven documents to table today.

Tabled Document 296 – 6(2): 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 297 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth

Tabled Document 298 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut

Tabled Document 299 – 6(2): Actuarial Valuation Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act as of April 1, 2022

Tabled Document 300 – 6(2): Actuarial Valuation Report Under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act as of April 1, 2022

Tabled Document 301 – 6(2): Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Tabled Document 302 – 6(2): Representative of Children and Youth Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth

The first document is the 2021-2022 to 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

The second document is the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth.

The third document is the 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut.

The fourth document is the Actuarial Valuation Report under the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act as of April 1, 2022.

The fifth document is the Actuarial Valuation Report Under the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act as of April 1, 2022.

The sixth document is the Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

The seventh document is the Representative of Children and Youth Response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Report on the Review of the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth. Thank you.

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

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 37 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 28, 2024 I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set sitting hours on days as the Speaker deems fit to assist the business before the House during the present sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

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

Speaker: Item 14, Notices of Motion. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Motion 38 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 28, 2024 I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that appointments be made to the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 14, Notices of Motion. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Motion 39 – 6(2): Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, October 28, 2024 I will move the following motion:

THEREFORE I MOVE, and seconded by Hon. Member for Rankin South, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Mr. Kiran Situt be appointed as Chief Electoral Officer effective October 24. At the appropriate time I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 50 – Fuel Tax Act – Notice****Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024 – Notice.****Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 – Notice****Bill 55 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025 – Notice****Bill 56 – Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2023-2024 – Notice****Bill 61 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026 – Notice****Bill 65 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 25, 2024 I will move that Bill 50, *Fuel Tax Act*, Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*, Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025*, Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025*, Bill 56, *Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2023-2024*, Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026*, and Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, all be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motion For First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act – Notice**Bill 58 – Property Assessment and Taxation Act – Notice**

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 25, 2024 that I will move Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act* and Bill 58, *property assessment and taxation act* both be read for the first time.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will not be seeking unanimous consent to deal with the first reading of bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Bill 51 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Notice

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 25, 2024 that Bill 51, which is Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Member of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Bill 59 – An Act to Amend the Access of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Notice

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 25, 2024 that Bill 59, An Act to Amend the Access of Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Bill 64 – Post-Secondary Student Support Act – Notice

Hon. Pamela Gross: Quana, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 25, 2024 that Bill 64, Post-Secondary Student Support Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 16, Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 037 – 6(2): Extended Sitting Hours and Days

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

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

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleague.

I MOVE, seconded by Hon. Member for South Baffin, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours and days as Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the present sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.
Item 16, Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Motion 038 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly Appointments and Revocations

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, that appointments be made to the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly.

FURTHER, I MOVE that Joeline Kaenerk, Member for Amittuq, be appointed a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and Standing Committee on Social Wellness.

AND FURTHER I MOVE that Karen Nutarak, Member for Tununig, be appointed a Member of the Standing Committee on Legislation, Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts, and Standing committee on Community and Economic Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.
Item 16. Motions. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Motion 039 – 6(2): Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut

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

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

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS subject to 188(1) of Nunavut Elections Act provides that Chief Electoral Officer is appointed for the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office during good behaviour for a term of seven years;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly Management and Service Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Acting Chief Electoral Officer was appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Management Services Board effective July 12, 2024;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position now;

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Mr. Kiran Situt be appointed to Chief Electoral Officer effective October 24, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. To the motion.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. And I would like to recognize new Chief Electoral Officer, who is sitting in the gallery.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. I recognize Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 61 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026 – First Reading

Mr. Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice required to allow for first reading of Bill 61, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to read Bill 61 today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is an agreement. Please proceed, Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the agreement.

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 61, Appropriation Capital Act 2025-2026 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

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

Mr. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 61, 2025-2026 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill recognizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, and Bill 61 is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters. Bill 61, with Mr. Hickes in the chair.

Before we proceed with the committee, we will take a 10-minute break. Sergeant-At-Arms. All rise.

>> *House recessed at 16:51 and Committee resumed at 17:09*

Item 19: Committee of the Whole

Chairman (Mr. Hickes): Thank you. I would like to open up the Committee of the Whole meeting. First we have Nunavut Housing Corporation. Sorry, in Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 61. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 61, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026 and supporting documents, commencing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Thank you. Is the Committee in agreement we deal with first Bill 61?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak. Do you have officials you would like to have appear in the committee before you?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I do, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Thank you. Does the Committee agree to let the Minister's officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in.

Chairman: For the record, Minister Kusugak, could you introduce your officials and proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I sure can. Mr. Chairman, to my right is Eiryn Devereaux, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my left is Syl Vardi (ph), Vice President and Chief Finance Officer.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm here today to present the Nunavut Housing Corporation Capital Plan for 2025-26. Mr. Chair, the Capital Plan consists of 109.8 million from the Government of Nunavut and 32.3 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

CMHC's funds include 28 million through the National Housing Strategy and 4.3 million under the Social Housing Agreement. These funding sources bring the total corporation capital budget for 2025-26 to 142.1 million.

The proposed 2025-26 NHC capital funding from the Government of Nunavut is approximately 27 million higher than the prior year. The corporation is using the additional funding to accelerate increases to housing supply and the overall expansion of the housing continuum.

Strategic use of these funds will allow NHC to move forward with our business plan, navigating the challenges of inflation and severe housing shortages.

To help adjust the continuing need for safe and appropriate housing in Nunavut, NHC will continue to actively lobby the federal government to ensure they understand the challenges of delivering housing in our territory.

To this end, Mr. Chairman, we are negotiating an MOU with the Yukon and the Northwest Territories that would synchronize our efforts to secure ongoing funding for northern housing from the federal government.

Mr. Chair, in fiscal year 2025-26 the corporation will continue to implement the Nunavut 3000 strategy, which aims to deliver 3,000 new housing units of all types by 2030. This is a \$2.5 billion residential bill program over eight years. It is the first time that housing development of all types is underway in all 25 of our communities at the same time.

We are pleased to report that 541 new housing units are either in construction or have been completed as of December 31, 2023.

We are anticipating another 320 building permits for new housing units to be issued this year. This will put us on pace to reach 1,000 units by December 2025 and 3,000 units by December 2030. Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members for your ongoing support on this strategy.

As a result of GN funding, Mr. Chair, NHC has already invested more than \$313 million to put and 396 housing units in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This includes construction of 296 public housing units and 20 staff housing units with NCC development. The purchase of 56 modular units from Sakku Innovative Building Systems and NCC Development and 24 public housing and affordable from Birtchcliff Development Limited. This level of investment reflects of Government of Nunavut's commitment to improving living conditions in this territory.

Strategic collaboration is at the centre of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Partnerships act as multipliers to the funds of Nunavut 3000 through co-investment donations, and in kind contribution.

I would like to share some of the partnerships that are helping us to rapidly increase housing supply and expand the housing continuum while also making a positive impact on social, economic, and cultural wellbeing in our communities.

Mr. Chair, I'll start with our Pathway to Home Ownership Pilot Project in partnership with Kitikmeot Region Inuit Association, or KitIA. This pilot project aims to support Nunavummiut in making the transition from tenancy and home ownership. KitIA will deliver financial literacy and home ownership skills training that incorporates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles to prospective homeowners.

The next partnership I would like to highlight, Mr. Chairman, is our agreement with Pewapun Construction and Nunavut Arctic College to increase trades training and build affordable student housing in Rankin Inlet. It is modelled after a collaboration between Pewapun and Nelson House Cree Nation in Manitoba, aimed at creating sustainable livelihood for Indigenous people through training, education, employment and self-employment.

This partnership involves the construction of six new three bedroom affordable housing units for student families by summer 2025. Pewapun has agreed to supply \$3 million in materials and specialized support in construction, while the units will be built by students and instructors in Nunavut Arctic College's skilled trade workers programs.

For Nunavummiut, this partnership bridges systemic gaps that prevent Inuit from engaging in the skilled trades and the ongoing development in the housing sector.

Another successful partnership in our master services agreement with NCC Development to build up to 2,000 of the anticipated 3,000 new housing units. By creating more predictability in housing sector we are giving our partner the opportunity to conduct a multi-year planning, purchase materials at scale and prepare for the sealift season each year.

Our agreement with NCCD also includes commitments for training and employment opportunities for Inuit, Nunavummiut working on the Nunavut 3000 bills. Partnerships such as these, Mr. Chairman, accelerate housing development and expand our housing continuum. They also include the quality of life in our communities and strengthen our ties with one another. Thank you for the chance to share these partnerships with you.

The GN funding for public housing is proposed to increase from 40 million in 2024-25 to 52 million in 2025-26. This funding will be used to build and acquire units for public housing in communities with the greatest need as part of the Nunavut 3000 strategy.

The corporation is targeting 166 new housing units to commence in 2025-2026 to fulfil the Katujjiluta mandate and Aajiiqatigiinniq. However, NHC still needs to obtain third party funding to meet our financial requirement for the 2025-2026 plan.

With significant changes to our housing policies and programs, NHC is proposing that capital funding increase to 8 million in 2025-26, an increase of 4 million from 2024-2025.

Mr. Chair, NHC has worked diligently to design housing policies that accelerates housing supply and to introduce modernized home ownership and affordable rental programs that increase housing choices for Nunavummiut in all our communities.

This includes the new Home Ownership Support Policy, which was approved by cabinet earlier this year, as well as the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, or NDAP; the expanded home renovation program, which now includes support for heating oil tank replacement; and the launch of the New Home Ownership Program, or NHAP, which offers Nunavummiut the chance to build and own their own home with home ownership education.

NHC has also consolidated programs to provide housing support to elders and people with disabilities to make it easier to access support.

In spring 2024, NHC launched an innovative new program to encourage developers to build housing units for affordable rent and home ownership. The Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive, or NAHSI, is a \$10 million that provides financial incentive for those who build new housing units for affordable rental or home ownership.

The first of these projects is already under way in Iqaluit, Mr. Chairman. The program has already been expanded to include the addition of secondary suites. The construction of secondary suites adds housing stock that relies on existing mechanical systems, reducing the total cost and timeline for construction and accelerating occupancy.

Mr. Chair, the corporation is seeking \$1 million funding for the fire damage and replacement fund. These funds will be used for minor and major repairs due to fire damage.

As of March 31, 2024 the corporation has 2.7 million from previous years allocated to complete unit replacement projects. These available funds will be used throughout 2024-2025 and 2025-26 to as we build new public housing units across all 25 communities.

The corporation's proposed 2025-26 mobile equipment fund of \$1 million will see an increase of \$100,000 over prior year, attributed to a higher cost of procuring vehicles. This increase permits NHC and local housing organizations to replace vehicles every seven years, or once they reach 100,000 kilometres.

Mr. Chair, Nunavut's local housing organization warehouse facilities are aging, with many now over 40 years old and requiring significant maintenance and repairs. The corporation's local housing organization warehouses fund will remain at 7.4 million for 2025-2026. With new facilities in Baker Lake and Sanikiluaq, the corporation is currently focused on strategic opportunity to renovate a recently acquired building in Gjoa Haven. For 2025-2026, the corporation move ahead with a tender process for Cambridge Bay while beginning design development for Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk and Igloolik. This work will address the LHO facilities the NHC identified as being in the greatest need of replacement.

Mr. Chairman, the mold assessment and remediation fund is proposed to increase from 7 million in 2024-2025 to 8 million in 2025-2026. Over the past six years the corporation has spent more than \$40 million to address mold and public housing units and remediated 256 units in 20 communities.

In 2025-2026 the corporation plans to inspect 120 units in six communities to assess the need for mold remediation. The corporation also prioritized communities and units where mold remediation has not yet been completed and where units are listed on the mold register.

Modernization and improvement for NHC-owned public housing units will remain consistent with the previous fiscal year, with 10 million in funding. The targeted total investment of 14.3 million, including CMHC's contribution, is still significantly under the industry's best-practice benchmark funding for capital renewal of 70 million.

Approximately 1,000 of the corporation's almost 6,000 owned public housing units were built prior to 1980 and require extensive repairs and retrofits to bring the units in the worst conditions up to an acceptable health and safety standard.

Staff housing capital funding will remain the same at 10 million for 2025-2026. This will allow the corporation to pursue construction of approximately 12 new staff housing units. Construction and leasing priorities are discussed and determined in consultation between the corporation and the Department of Human Resources.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, the corporation is seek \$751,000 for 2025-2026 to continue upgrading local housing organization offices to a modern structured tabling system that is cost-effective, flexible, easy to manage, reduces downtime, and enhances network security.

Funding for this project was initially approved for 2024-2025 and we anticipate this initiative to cost approximately \$1.38 million total to complete.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to a meaningful discussion. My officials and I will be able to hear your comments and answer any questions you may have. Qujannamiik.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have opening comments? Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development Opening comments. Thank you, Chair. I'm pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Community and Economic Development committee and the proposed the 2025-2026 capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I am pleased to announce the Nunavut Housing Corporation proposed capital budget for 2025-2026.

Nunavut Housing Corporation for capital estimates for 2025-2026 year is at \$1^{oh} ^ 09,771 million. This represents 32.8 percent increase over the corporation's approved 2024-2025 capital estimates.

This shortage of housing is ongoing of public housing in all of Nunavut communities and is an issue of significant concern to all members of the Legislative Assembly.

The April 2022 federal budget announced that the Government of Canada will provide \$845 million in Indigenous-specific housing funding for Inuit communities over seven years.

The extent to which Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami are working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to identify specific projects for this funding remains unclear. On August 24, 2024² Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Construction Corporation Development Limited announced the signing of an agreement in principle to pursue a strategic partnership in relation to the delivery of much needed transitional public affordable and market housing units across the territory.

On October 18, 2022, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC announced the signing of a formal Master Partnership Agreement. This agreement, as well as the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Nunavut 3000 Strategy, were publicly released on the same day.

The Standing Committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of implementing this agreement and the new strategy. The extent to which the new Nunavut 3000 strategy will complement the Nunavut Housing Corporation's existing blueprint for action strategy remains unclear.

On January 31, 2024, Nunavut Housing Corporation and NCC announced the signing of the 2024 Annual Allocation and Purchase Agreements (Design-Build Contracts) to

develop 166 new housing units, of which 146 are public housing units and 20 staff housing units in 17 Nunavut communities.

The Standing Committee continues to encourage the Minister to table annual updates on the status of public housing construction projects.

Prior to the launch of the Nunavut 3000 Strategy the Nunavut Housing Corporation's methodology for determining new public housing construction's allocations was formula-driven and based on relative need.

(interpretation ends) The importance of ensuring the Nunavut residents have confidence in accuracy and transparency of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's approach to verify wait list numbers and continue to recommend that minister table on an annual basis and in timely manner the Nunavut Housing Corporation's update allocation methodology, community allocations, and community wait list.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimate include funding of construction of new staff housing units. However, the exact process by which the Nunavut Housing Corporation determines the specific communities in which new staff housing is to be constructed is not entirely clear.

Members continue to note that the current role of Nunavut Housing Corporation's Board of Directors in approving planned public and staff housing construction community allocations is unclear.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimate includes 10 million in voted funds for new affordable housing capital budget.

On April 8, 2024 the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that the Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive, NAHSI, a new flagship program targeted housing developers and builders to increase the supply of affordable housing while help the Katujjiluta committee to expand Nunavut's housing continue.

Affordable housing refers to housing availability on the market for rent or purchase that is at minimum 20 percent below market rates and therefore make more affordable for individuals and families.

The incentive incentivizes the Nunavut affordable units for rent, for sale. The Nunavut Affordable Housing Supply Incentive year forgivable loans for \$150,000 for each eligible unit, including single family dwellings, residential multiplexes, condominiums, cooperatives, and modular homes. Eligible organizations include Inuit organizations, private-sector housing developers and builders, municipalities, and non-profit organizations who seek to create affordable housing in Nunavut.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Nunavut affordable housing supply incentive policy sunsets on December 31, 2028. The policy indicates that the corporation will develop up-to-date median market rents for community and units which will be appended by this program as it becomes available.

On November 7, 2019, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Home Ownership Program Review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. One of the recommendations contained in the report was that Nunavut Housing Corporation's should consolidate programs related to purchasing or building a home into the Single Home Ownership Program and consolidate programs related to home repairs, maintenance, and renovations into the Single Home Improvement Program.

On April 8, 2024 the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced a modernized suite of affordable housing and home ownership support programs. The Nunavut Housing Corporation proposed 2025-2026 capital estimate includes 8 million for the new home ownership funding budget.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Nunavut Home Ownership Support Policy sunsets March 31, 2028. On August 28, 2024 the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced that the condominium program is accepting applications from prospective home owners and is now open to all Nunavummiut.

Members continue to emphasize the importance of ensuring ease of access to information concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's home ownership programs, especially to smaller communities.

Members continue to emphasize the importance of providing timely decisions on applications submitted under its home ownership program.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimate includes funding for the proposal of providing an annual contribution to local housing organizations for the creation of a vehicle service fund. Members continue to recommend that Nunavut Housing Corporation's annual report include a detailed listing of vehicle acquisitions undertaken by local housing organizations.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's proposed 2025-2026 capital estimate include funding for its ongoing mode assessment and remediation initiative. Members look forward to ongoing updates on the status of this important work.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's five-year capital plan indicates that funding will be allocated on an annual basis for its local housing organization workshop, warehouse, and administrative offices replacement project.

Information provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation indicates that the design and construction of new local housing organization facilities in Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloodik and Gjoa Haven will be undertaken in coming years.

In February 2023, Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for tenders for the construction of a new Cambridge Bay facility. However, information published by the government indicates that the tender was subsequently cancelled, due to budgetary constraints. The extent to which the corporation's current five-year capital plan indicates adequate funding for this work is unclear.

That concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2025-2026 capital estimate of Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Killiktee. Do members have any general comments before we proceed to detailed questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I just wanted to touch upon a subject. I was shocked when I heard that when the houses are overheated, the home, the tenants are asked to vacate the premises, and that's what I heard and I was a bit shocked because it's getting colder out there and there are houses that are deteriorating rapidly. It would be more appropriate if there's a house allocated to the individual, before they are vacated out of their older homes. That's what I wanted to bring up, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. You'll have an opportunity to ask some detailed questions on that during proceedings. Any other general comments? I see none. Mr. Malliki. Thank you, there's a motion on the floor not to report progress subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion carried. I'll now rise to report progress to the speaker. My apologies. The witnesses may leave the witness table. Thank you.

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

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been reviewing Bill 61 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Is there a seconder. Ms. Brewster. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for October 25:

Item 1: Prayer

Item 2: Ministers' Statement

Item 3: Members' Statements

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Item 5: Recognition of visitors in the gallery

Item 6: Oral question

Item 7: Written questions

Item 8: Return to Written Questions

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Item 10: Petitions

Item 11: Responses to Petitions

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committee on Bills and Other Matters

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Item 14: Notices of Motion

Item 15: Notice of Motion, First Reading of Bills

Item 16: Motions

Item 17: First Reading of Bills. Bill 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 64, 65

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Item 19: Consideration of Committee of the Whole - Bills and Other Matters. Bill 61

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Item 21: Third reading of bills

Item 22: Orders of the day. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Friday, October 25 at 9 a.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>> *House adjourned at 18:53*

Appendix – Oct 24, 2024



Return to Oral Question

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**Nunavut Maligaliurvia Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut Assemblée
legislative du Nunavut**

Asked by: Mr. George Hickes, MLA of Iqaluit-Tasiluk

**Asked of: Hon. Karen Nutarak, Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic
College**

Number: Question 866-6(2)

Date: May 27, 2024

Subject: Master Designated List for NAC

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to supplement answers I gave to two questions asked by Mr. George Hickes, Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk. I took the second supplementary question as notice.

Nunavut Arctic College is on the Federal Master Designation List as of April 18, 2024. This designation means registered education savings plans can be used to pay college fees. The college has not been notified if certain programs are ineligible to be paid by registered education savings plans.

From 2018-2023, Nunavut Arctic College was a designated institute with the Province of Alberta's Master Designation List. The college was renewed on the Province of Alberta's Master Designation List for 2024-2029. The Department of Education is the Government of Nunavut's designated authority for the *Universities and Degree-Granting Institutions Act*. The establishment of a Nunavut specific authority under the Federal Master Designation would fall under the responsibility of the Department of Education's Advanced Education division. Nunavut Arctic College will commit to discussing such a designation with the Department of Education.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker



**Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut**

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Mr. Solomon Malliki, Member for Aivilik

Asked of: Hon. Karen Nutarak, Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Number: Question 871 - 6(2)

Date: May 28, 2024

Subject: Online Courses at Nunavut Arctic College

Speaker, I rise today to provide an answer to a question I took as notice from Mr. Solomon Malliki, Member for Aivilik, on which courses at Nunavut Arctic College are currently being offered online and how many students are taking advantage of opportunities to pursue their studies remotely.

Currently, the only stand alone, online course Nunavut Arctic College offers is the Personal Support Worker Program. There are college programs that have some level of online delivery, which include Nunavut Teacher Education Program, Bachelor of Social Work, Social Service Worker Program, Bachelor of Science (Arctic Nursing), Practical Nurse Program, and Computer Systems Technician.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker



**Nunavut
Maligaliurvia Legislative
Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du
Nunavut**

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Asked of: George Hickes,
Number: MLA Iqaluit-Tasilik
Date: Subject: Hon. Karen
Nutarak, Minister of

Justice 909 - 6(2)

May 31, 2024

**Federal Bail
Reform**

Question:

Mr. Speaker, Bill C-48 or the former Bill C-48 proposed changes to strengthen Canada's bail system or the federal bail reform legislation. Mr. Speaker, that bill received Royal Assent and came into effect January 4th of this year. I would like to ask the minister first: what are the [sic] some of the notable changes and bail reform impacting Nunavut from this federal legislation?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Response:

Mr. Speaker,

The former federal Bill C-48, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code*, made two types of changes to Canada's bail system.

First, it expanded the list of "reverse onus" provisions under the *Criminal Code* - making it the accused's responsibility to convince the court to grant bail, as opposed to it being the Crown's responsibility - to include:

- when the accused is charged with certain firearms-related offences; and
- when the accused is charged with intimate partner violence offences, and they have a history of similar offences.

Second, the Act requires the court to confirm that it considered the victim's and the community's safety and the status of the accused as an Indigenous and/or vulnerable person as part of its decision to release or detain the accused.

The changes impact Nunavut and all provinces and territories by explicitly putting victim and community safety at the forefront of bail proceeding and creating new requirements for certain offenders to be released on bail. The new provisions are meant to respond to an offenders patterns of repeated (and often escalating) violence.

The Department of Justice remains committed to promoting public safety across Nunavut as well as upholding an accused person's right to fair treatment at every stage of the criminal justice process. We will continue to monitor developments in the implementation of these amendments and any impact they have on Nunavut Courts and Corrections. The Department will share any key issues or updates with the Legislative Assembly. We will also raise with the federal government any concerns that may arise from our analysis.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Oral Question

Asked by: Mr. George Hickes, *MLA from Tasi/uk*

Asked of: *Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Minister of Finance*

Number: 876-6(2)

Date: May 28, 2024

Subject: Insurance on Government Assets

Question:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to respond to the question asked to me by the Member for Iqaluit Tasiluk on May 28, 2024, which I took as notice, in which he asked for the following:

"I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister of Finance on the topic of insurance, as the Department of Finance is responsible for insurance for government-owned infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I was quite surprised to learn yesterday in the dialogue from the member from Arviat South and the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and I'll quote from the Blues from yesterday afternoon: "As for whether the buildings or whether that fuel tank and/or that building is insured, as members might know, all of our government buildings are self-insured."

Mr. Speaker, that came as quite a shock to me. I would like to ask the question, first of all: When was this practice implemented? How were appropriated funds for insurance allocated?"

Response:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that we do not self-insure our assets. We do carry insurance for our assets, but all losses are not covered by insurance depending on the cause. Some incidents may be insurable, but the value of the claim is less than our deductible.

No appropriations were allocated for the self-insurance of the Government of Nunavut's assets, but the Department of Finance does receive an appropriation as part of its budget to pay insurance premiums.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these questions, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker



RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION

Asked by: Joe Savikataaq, MLA Arviat South Date Asked: 31-May-24

Asked of: The Honourable P.J. Akeegok, Premier of Nunavut Number 8-6

(2)

Subject: Ministerial Duty and Home Travel Questions:

- 1 What duty travel was undertaken by the Premier and members of the Executive Council between January 1, 2024 and May 30, 2024
- 2 What was the cost, duration, itinerary, purpose of each trip?
- 3 Who took part in each trip?
- 4 Within the meaning of the "Home Travel" provisions of the Government of Nunavut's *Ministerial Benefits Policy*, how many trips were undertaken between January 1, 2024 and May 30, 2024, by members of the Executive Council who are not residents of Iqaluit?
- 5 What were the dates and duration of each trip?

Response to Questions 1, 2 and 3 Related to Duty Travel

Travel Dates	Duration	Itinerary	Purpose of trip	Cost	Other Participants
Premier PJ Akeegok					
January 8 - 9, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Whale Cove- Chesterfield Inlet	Community Visit - Whale Cove and Chesterfield	20,557	Ministerial Political Advisor
January 27-29, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	State Funeral for Hon. Ed Broadbent	3,987	
February 2 - 9, 2024	8	Iqaluit - Yellowknife - Taloyoak-Cambridge Bay	Community Visit - Taloyoak and Kitikmeot Trade Show	8,703	Chief of Strategic Operations
March 20 - 27, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Ottawa	State Funeral for Brian Mulroney and Nunavut Sivuniksavut Presentation	4,209	
April 28 - 30, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Canada Club & Meet with Minister Miller	1,830	
May 6 - 9, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Pond Inlet	Northern Premiers Forum	35,832	Principal Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, Chief of Strategic Operations, Ministerial Political Advisor, Press Secretary
May 12 - 15, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	27,263	Principal Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, Chief of Strategic Operations
May 15 - 17, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduation	6,139	Ministerial Political Advisor
				108,521	
Minister Daniel Qavvik					
January 8 - 9, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Whale Cove - Chesterfield Inlet	Community Visit - Whale Cove and Chesterfield	1,473	Ministerial Political Advisor
February 5 - 7, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Baker Lake	Community visit with MLA and NAC- Baker Lake	7,508	Ministerial Political Advisor
April 22 - 29, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Yellowknife	Meeting with Northwest Territories Minister	3,465	Ministerial Political Advisor
May 12 - 19, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet - Whitehorse	Cabinet Retreat and FPT Whitehorse	22,747	Ministerial Political Advisor
				35,193	
Minister Margaret Nakashuk					
January 14 - 18, 2024	5	Iqaluit - Ottawa	FPT of Forum Market Ministers	1,849	
February 6 - 12, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Ottawa	FPTI on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	2,203	
May 12 - 15, 2024	5	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	12,102	
				16,153	
Minister Pamela Gross					
May 12 - 15, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	12,274	
May 15 - 17, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduation	6,443	
				18,717	
Minister Karen Nutarak					
May 12 - 15, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	12,102	Ministerial Political Advisor
				12,102	
Minister Lorne Kusugak					
January 28 - 31, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Site Visit Modular Home with NHC President	1,607	President NHC, Chair of NHC
February 14 - 17, 2024	4	Rankin Inlet - Winnipeg - Thompson -	Meet with Penwapun Construction and Nelson House Band on Housing Build Project.	10,214	Ministerial Political Advisor
March 18 - 21, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation Annual General Meeting	8,884	Ministerial Political Advisor
April 23 - 25, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Pond Inlet	NHC Board Meeting	3,956	Ministerial Political Advisor (NHC arranged the charter)
April 30 - May 3, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Arctic Cooperatives Limited Annual General Meeting	3,480	
May 16 - 17, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Gjoa Haven	Signing MOU with Kita & Handover of Facility	653	(Note: NHC arranged the charter)
				28,794	

Minister David Joanase					
January 8 - 9, 2024	1	Iqaluit - Whale Cove - Chesterfield Inlet	Community Visit	1,114	Ministerial Political Advisor
January 11 - 12, 2024	1	Iqaluit - Pond Inlet	Community Visit	6,643	Ministerial Political Advisor
January 15 - 16, 2024	1	Iqaluit - Kinngait	Community Visit	4,852	Ministerial Political Advisor
February 5 - 9, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Cambridge Bay	Kitikmeot Tradeshow	869	-
March 9 - 16, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Alaska	Arctic Winter Games	1,895	Ministerial Political Advisor
May 12 - 15, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	12,102	
May 15 - 17, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduation	7,877	Ministerial Political Advisor
				35,350	
Minister David Akeegak					
February 5 - 9, 2024	4	Iqaluit - Cambridge Bay	Kitikmeot Tradeshow	2,016	Ministerial Political Advisor
April 11 - 16, 2024	5	Iqaluit - Arctic Bay	Nunavut Quest/25 Year Servie Awards	6,162	
May 6 - 9, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Grise Fiord	Long Term Service Awards	1,262	
May 12 - 14, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	12,136	
				21,576	
Minister John Main					
January 8 - 9, 2024	1	Iqaluit - Whale Cove - Chesterfield Inlet	Community Visits	696	
February 9 - 14, 2024	5	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Senate Committee Hearings	2,744	Ministerial Political Advisor
March 17 - 19, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Ottawa	Senate Committee Hearings	3,496	Ministerial Political Advisor
April 15 - 17, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Nauyasat - Pond Inlet	GN NTI PHAC Tour	380	
April 29 - May 1, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Kivalliq Long Term Care Centre contract signing	5,544	Ministerial Political Advisor
May 12 - 14, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet	Cabinet Retreat	12,136	
May 13 - 15, 2024	2	Iqaluit - Arviat	Kivalliq Long Term Care Centre contract signing	6,366	Ministerial Political Advisor
				31,363	
				Grand Total	307,770

Response to Questions 4 and 5 Related to Home Travel

<i>Travel Dates</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Itinerary</i>	<i>Purpose of trip</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Number of One-Way Trips</i>
Minister Daniel Qavvik					
January 25, 2024 - February 1, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Sanikiluaq - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister and Family	10,437	8 (Note: Dependents stayed in Sanikiluaq; only Minister returned to Iqaluit)
March 8, 2024 - March 18, 2024	11	Iqaluit - Sanikiluaq - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	12,366	2
May 23, 2024	119	Sanikiluaq - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Dependents	19,914	6 (Note: Dependents returned from Sanikiluaq from their January home travel)
				42,717	
Minister Margaret Nakashuk					
January 3, 2024 - January 9, 2024	6	Pangnirtung - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Dependent	403	2
February 14 - 20, 2024	7	Iqaluit - Pangnirtung - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	920	2
February 15 - 20, 2024	6	Iqaluit - Pangnirtung - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Spouse	827	2
February 26, 2024 - March 17, 2024	21	Iqaluit - Pangnirtung - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Dependent	827	2
March 24, 2024 - April 15, 2024	23	Iqaluit - Pangnirtung - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	1,242	2
March 25 - 29, 2024	5	Iqaluit - Pangnirtung - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Spouse/Dependent	1,868	4
				6,088	
Minister Pamela Gross					
January 14, 2024 - February 20, 2024	37	Iqaluit - Cambridge Bay - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister and Family	2,842	4
March 22 - 29, 2024	8	Iqaluit - Cambridge Bay - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister and Family	10,737	4
				13,579	
Minister Karen Nutarak					
March 22, 2024 - April 5, 2024	15	Iqaluit - Pond Inlet	Home Travel - Minister	1,080	2
				1,080	
Minister Lorne Kusugak					
January 3 - 5, 2024	3	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	1,569	2
January 14, 2024 - February 18, 2024	36	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	1,594	2
March 13 - 18, 2024	6	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	2,153	2
April 25 - 29, 2024	5	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	810	2
May 19 - 31, 2024	12	Iqaluit - Rankin Inlet - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister	1,288	
				7,414	
Minister John Main					
January 1 - 5, 2024	4	Arviat - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister and Family	4,021	5
March 29, 2024 - April 7, 2024	10	Iqaluit - Arviat - Iqaluit	Home Travel - Minister and Family	11,346	10
				15,367	
				Grand Total	86,245