

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-Niaqunnguu)

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 Hicketts
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Hon. David Joanasi
(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 Quqqiak
(Netsilik)

Alexander Sammurtok
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

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

Hon. Craig Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
John Topic

Hansard Production
Uqausirmit Uqausirmit Inc.

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1
Ministers' Statements.....	1
Members' Statements.....	6
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	13
Oral Questions.....	14
Tabling of Documents.....	38
First Reading of Bills.....	39
Second Reading of Bills.....	42

A.

Daily References

Friday, October 25, 2024..... 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

467 – 6(2): Arctic and Northern Police Framework Leadership (Akeeagok P) 1
468 – 6(2): 2024 Nunavut Trade Show Success (Akeeagok D)..... 3
469 – 6(2): Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (Nakashuk) 4
470 – 6(2): Health Staffing Update (Main) 4
471 – 6(2): 2023-2024 High School Graduates - Record (Gross)..... 5

C.

Members' Statements

640 – 6(2): Concerns Regarding Health Services (Quqqiaq)..... 6
641 – 6(2): Medical Transient Centre for Rankin Inlet (Sammurtoq) 7
642 – 6(2): Income Support Clients (Lightstone) 8
643 – 6(2): Appreciation of Ministerial Visit (Killiktee) 9
644 – 6(2): Condolences to the Family of Piujuq Tatatoapik (Joanasie) 10
645 – 6(2): Search and Rescue Efforts in Constituency (Joanasie) 10
646 – 6(2): Recreation Activities in Sanikiluaq (Qavvik)..... 11

D.

Oral Questions

929 – 6(2): Nutrition North Canada Program (Brewster)..... 14

930 – 6(2): Arctic Nursing Program (Hickes) 17

931 – 6(2): Grays Bay Road and Port Project (Anavilok) 19

932 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure (Killiktee)..... 21

933 – 6(2): Community Coroners in Igloolik (Quassa)..... 23

934 – 6(2): Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (Simailak) 24

935 – 6(2): Income Support Clients (Lightstone)..... 27

936 – 6(2): Clean Energy Projects in the Kivalliq (Malliki)..... 29

937 – 6(2): Medical Transient Centre (Sammurtok)..... 31

938 – 6(2): Kugaaruk Power Plant (Quqqiaq) 34

939 – 6(2): Medical Travel Policy (Kaernek)..... 36

E.

Tabling of Documents

284 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Kugaaruk Concerning
Weather Observation Operations at the Kugaaruk Airport (Nakashuk)..... 38

285 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Kugaaruk Concerning
Weather Observation Operations at the Kugaaruk Airport (Quqqiaq)..... 38

286 – 6(2): Resolutions from October 2024 Kivalliq Mayors Meeting
(Sammurtok) 39

F.

Bills

Bill 50 – Fuel Tax Act – First Reading..... 39

Bill 51 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading..... 40

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act – First Reading 40

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act, No. 3,
2023-2024 – First Reading..... 40

Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 – First
Reading 40

Bill 55 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1,
2024-2025 – First Reading..... 40

Bill 56 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 2023-2024 – First Reading 41

Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – First
Reading 41

Bill 59 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
– First Reading..... 41

Bill 64 – Post-Secondary Student Support Act – First Reading 41

Bill 65 – An Act to amend Income Tax Act – First Reading..... 42

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3,
2023-2024 - Second Reading..... 42

Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 - Second
Reading 42

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 25, 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*

>>*No audio*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. Those watching on television as well, good morning on the radio. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 467 – 6(2): Arctic and Northern Police Framework Leadership

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok (interpretation): Good morning, fellow members and Nunavummiut as well.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, on October 11, the Hon. Dav Van Dal, Minister of Northern Affairs, and I co-hosted the 5th Annual Arctic and Northern Policy Framework Leadership Committee meeting here, in Iqaluit.

We were joined by the Northwest Territories premier, my good friend, R.J. Simpson, Indigenous and territorial leaders, as well as federal, territorial and provincial partners to the framework.

Minister Van Dal's federal colleagues, the Hon. Shawn Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities joined the meeting in person, while the Hon. Mélanie Joly, Foreign Affairs Minister and the Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence and

the Hon. Ya'ara Saks, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health took part virtually.

Minister David Joanasi, Minister John Main and Minister Daniel Qavvik joined me at the meeting.

Mr. Speaker, the meeting included discussions on perspectives on the framework as well as international Arctic policy, Arctic and northern security and defence, northern housing and infrastructure, and mental health and addictions.

I took the opportunity to outline immediate needs for significant investments in the Arctic that meet both the local community needs, more job opportunities for economic development, address reconciliation, and our country's geopolitical interests in Arctic sovereignty and security.

Mr. Speaker, launched in 2019, the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework sets out the shared vision of the future, where strong, self-reliant people and communities work together for a vibrant, prosperous, and sustainable Arctic and northern region at home and abroad.

It guided the Government of Canada's priorities activities and investments in the Arctic to 2030 and beyond, and better aligns Canada's national and international policy objectives with the priorities of Indigenous Peoples and everyone who lives across the Arctic and the North.

As Northern premiers and Indigenous leaders, we have devoted a lot of time to implement the vision of the Arctic policy and Northern Policy Framework, and develop long-lasting opportunities for the North.

Mr. Speaker, at the meeting I stressed that it is not too late for the federal government to step up and make transformative investments in the North to realize the vision in this framework. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 468 – 6(2): 2024 Nunavut Trade Show Success

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report on the outstanding success of the 2024 Nunavut Trade Show and Conference held in Iqaluit from September 17 to 19.

Through our business development unit partnerships with the Baffin Regional Chambers of Commerce, we also sponsored this flagship event which brought together over 350 registered delegates, and many more during the business and public days.

This year's trade show marked a significant milestone with participation from Global Affairs Canada, the Government of Canada's representatives, and key organizations such as Arctic Culture and Arctic Foods Canada, National Research Council, and the Canada Infrastructure Bank.

We were also honoured to welcome the Greenland business delegation, led by their trade council, and head of public affairs and trade representative from the embassy of Iceland in Ottawa, a testament to our fruitful networking efforts and clear signs of opportunities to work closer with Iceland and Greenland on issues that affect the Arctic.

The three-day gathering featured 107 exhibit booths, which included ten artists from Iqaluit and other communities, thirty speakers, and a daily conference.

Our premier, Hon. P.J. Akeegok and I were joined by Scott Reid, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation for Newfoundland and Labrador in sharing our vision for Nunavut economic growth, and reviewing our existing Memorandum of Understanding.

The trade show brought over an estimated half a million dollars into the local economy, supporting local businesses and service provider. This achievement underscores the event's growing importance with this year's addition being the largest in 31 years, according to Chris West, Executive Director of the Baffin Regional Chambers of Commerce.

As we celebrate the success of the Nunavut Trade Show, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering economic development, innovation, and collaboration. We look forward to building on this momentum, driving growth and opportunities for Nunavut businesses, artists, and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 469 – 6(2): Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, fellow members. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I co-hosted the ninth gallery of the Nunavut Round Table For Poverty Reduction with our partners, Nunavut Tunngavik.

The gathering focused on the cost of living and programs that support Nunavummiut in meeting their basic needs. We had conversations about cargo, grocery food supply chains, food prices, harvester support programs, the Nutrition North Canada Program, the Income Assistance Program and the Inuit First Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I was so proud to hear from our youth, who reminded us of how interconnected we are, and to be mindful of taking care of those connections.

I also felt blessed to be able to spend some time with elders, who emphasize how very capable our youth are of learning and of teaching us.

I thank all the participants who share their valuable information about existing programs, how these programs could better serve Nunavummiut, and innovative suggestions to include in the next Makimaniq Plan.

There was a very clear message: The path forward is to celebrate community contributions and to honour our culture by building systems based in our Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 470 – 6(2): Health Staffing Update

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, fellow members. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health knows our staff are the key to providing quality care for Nunavummiut.

I would like to provide a few updates on key staffing measures today. The first: A chief midwife officer was hired in June 2024. This position supports a development and integration of Inuit midwifery work force. Health is working with the department of Manitoba Ongomiizwin Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, to create an Inuit midwife training curriculum.

This work is supported by a steering committee and includes representation from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Pauktuutit.

In the area of nursing recruitment, Health has established two key memorandums of understanding to address vacancies that both increase financial initiatives for experience and critical positions, nurses, and establishing job sharing, enabling multiple nurses to fill one role in a consistent schedule. Health is optimistic that this new job-sharing model will help attract a wider pool of nurses to fill critical staff shortages throughout the territory. Approximately 15 job shares have been processed to date.

Mr. Speaker, recruiters launched of social media campaign, through social media, Turn to the North, in English. The campaign ran on Facebook, TikTok and even Spotify. It attracted significant interest, and we look forward to seeing this translate into job applications.

Staff also entered into three in-person job fairs this fall, and another work show, Nunavut Health Care Career Fair is scheduled for November.

We know professional development is key to nursing retention, and we are seeing in action across Nunavut. We see nurses take Inuit language courses. We see nurses pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees. We have also seen nurses enrolled in the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit leadership development program.

I congratulate the students and thank you all for help staff issuing professional development. Your dedication, education, and commitment makes our health care system stronger, whether it is in compensation, in employment model, in recruitment or retention. Health remains dedicated to supporting our valued staff in all areas so they can provide essential health care for Nunavummiut across the territory under Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Minister's Statement 471 – 6(2): 2023-2024 High School Graduates - Record

Hon. Pamela Gross (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, good morning to everybody across our territory and in this House today.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to inform our colleagues today that we had 301 students graduate from Nunavut schools in the 2023-2024 academic year, a new record.

>> *Applause*

Hon. Pamela Gross: Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of all of these graduates. They worked incredibly hard this year to reach their goals and achieve this milestone. I would also like to acknowledge the support parents and students give to our students, and of course we all thank our hard-working dedicated educators and school staff. All of you working together play such a critical role in ensuring our students' success through their high school journey.

Mr. Speaker, we can also report that our graduation rates have steadily increased each year since Nunavut's creation in 1999. This is progress. We are building role models, future community leaders, and a stronger Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to a wholistic and supportive education system that is inclusive and responsive to the needs and strengths of students.

The Department of Education provides a safe, caring, and supportive learning environment for all students to achieve learning goals and maximize their potential while readying them for the next phase of their life's journey.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Nunavut's newest high school graduates and recognizing our energetic parents, guardians, educators, and support staff who supported these students in their latest accomplishments. To our students, congratulations. We wish each of you continued success to pursue your future goals.

Quana.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 640 – 6(2): Concerns Regarding Health Services

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a number of concerns respecting health services which have been brought to me by my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, some time ago there was a major fuel spill at the Taloyoak Health Centre. All those significant efforts were made to correct and remediate the situation. It seems that there is still a strong smell of fuel in the health centre. This impacts the comfort and well-being of both staff and residents who go to the centre for appointments and health care.

Currently, Mr. Speaker, the Taloyoak Health Centre has reduced services, due to staff shortages. Community residents who have concerns about their personal health or the health of their loved ones will have to wait until new appointments can be scheduled. This increases their level of concern.

Mr. Speaker, there's also concerns related to when medical clients travel out of the community to receive health care. I was advised that in one case, a medical client travelled to Edmonton, and their escort did not have the same travel arrangements. They were separated. This is concerning, given that escorts are supposed to provide direct support to the medical client.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Department of Health faces challenges with respect to staffing, not only in the community health centres, but also in the various divisions of the department.

Mr. Speaker, however, my constituents have raised legitimate concerns with respect to the delivery of health services, and I wanted to bring them to the attention of the House and the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Member's Statement 641 – 6(2): Medical Transient Centre for Rankin Inlet

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Good morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to resume my efforts to convince our government to establish a medical boarding home or a medical transient centre in the community of Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as you will know, and as many of our Kivalliq colleagues have stated, there's a need for a safe and secure place in Rankin Inlet, where medical travellers from Kivalliq can go when their flights to or from home is postponed or delayed for an extended period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised this issue many times. My colleagues have raised this issue. The Kivalliq mayors have discussed this issue, and recently passed a resolution to set forth the establishment of a medical transient centre in Rankin Inlet.

All too often flights going through Rankin Inlet are delayed, postponed, or cancelled due to weather or mechanical issues. Medical travellers are left stranded.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health has told us on several occasions that the medical travel policies are being reviewed. He has spoken on a flexibility study for a boarding

home in Rankin Inlet, but he has also indicated that the number of medical travellers going to Rankin Inlet is not enough to justify a full boarding home.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I suggest that the department set up a medical transient centre. There should be a designated location where medical travellers can go to if they are stranded in Rankin Inlet and there are no other options, except a cold metal bench at the airport.

Mr. Speaker, I have identified a potential building that would be suitable for this purpose. The old children's group home has been sitting. Mr. Speaker, I seek a unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are none. Please continue, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Mr. Speaker, I have identified a potential building that would be suitable for this purpose; the old children's group home has been sitting unused for years. When I raised this option with the minister, he said he wasn't sure whether it was his department or the Department of Family Services which retains the building.

Well, I have done homework, and I confirmed that it's not the Family Services. Health is in the perfect position to put that building into good use.

Mr. Speaker, in May of this year the Minister announced very welcoming \$190 million of non-insured health benefits funding for medical travel. This good news is due to the hard work of the minister and his team. I commend them for it.

I'm suggesting a small investment to establish a medical transient centre in Rankin Inlet would greatly improve the medical travel experience for the Kivalliq medical travellers.

I ask the Minister again to give the suggestion his full consideration and to work with his officials to make it happen. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Member's Statement 642 – 6(2): Income Support Clients

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish happy Friday to you, and all of the Nunavummiut who are watching the proceedings today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue along the theme of recruitment and retention of income support clients into the work force. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that I

believe that this is the most direct avenue of uplifting our people out of poverty while enhancing the standard of living and quality of life in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had recommended incentives similar to the Government of Nunavut's own recruitment and retention bonuses be made available to assist income support workers or clients out of the welfare trap and into and to stay into the work force. However, Mr. Speaker, the solution will require a double-edged sword. We need to connect income support clients who are able and capable and willing to work with employers who are looking to hire.

And Mr. Speaker, today I would like to focus on targeted incentives to encourage employers to hire income support clients, especially in those hard-to-fill jobs with low requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I do recognize that many of our private-sector employers in our larger communities have been coming up with very innovative methods to recruit and retain local employment, including for those hard-to-fill positions with low requirements.

Mr. Speaker, our entrepreneurs in small and medium businesses have been offering benefits to aid in recruitment and retention, such as rides to and from work, weekly bonuses for arriving on time, monthly bonuses for good attendance, offering travel benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that the Government of Nunavut must encourage our employers in Nunavut to continue and expand this type of efforts which is necessary to help uplift Nunavummiut out of poverty. I would like to hereby give notice to the minister that I will be asking questions on this topic at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Uqqummiut, Ms. Killiktee.

Member's Statement 643 – 6(2): Appreciation of Ministerial Visit

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to people of Nunavut. I rise this morning to go back to what happened in Qikiqtarjuaq, in my community. We have been very proud in our community in Qikiqtarjuaq, in the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq in my community.

I would first like to thank the hamlet council and the Hunters and Trappers Organization board and others. Now, I had invited the premier of Nunavut and asked if the premier can visit our community, and he did, along with his ministers that could come along.

I thought at that time when I wrote the letter that the government employees and positions that the premier should be able to take a look himself, and this went on very well, and especially with the schools and the students. I wanted them to be more encouraged to go to school, and if they see the ministers and what the ministers do, then it would really encourage the students, and they did, and the students are very thankful for that.

All the government staff in the government offices were really grateful for being visited.

We have all been proud that you did come and visit us, and there are visible improvements. And when I go around town, Nunavut employees have been thanking me for doing that, and I wanted to inform the House about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 644 – 6(2): Condolences to the Family of Piujuq Tatatoapik

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to be in Arctic Bay today, because this afternoon they are going to have a funeral for one of our precious elders. Piujuq Tatatoapik is going to be deeply missed, and I give my condolences to all the family members, although I really want to be up there. I would like to go up there and be with the family because they lost their mother and Tommy, the person was Tommy Tatatoapik's wife and there will be a funeral for her today.

I'm grateful that I'm the son-in-law of that couple, and I'm always grateful for that. Although I really want to go up there, but due to the sitting, I'm going to have to stay here. But my heart is with you as you go through this hard grieving time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasie.

Member's Statement 645 – 6(2): Search and Rescue Efforts in Constituency

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to my colleagues and everyone in Nunavut. I feel the same as my high Arctic colleague. This fall in South Baffin, and in both communities that I represent, they have been doing some work on people who are missing, and it has become very difficult as the fall comes. There was a hunter that never came back in a whole month, and there was a continuous search for evidence.

I would like to thank all of the people that took part in the search and who supported the search. They were assisted by airplanes and helicopters.

And this is a more recent happening in Kimmirut, and it was on CBC News. I really have a heartfelt feeling for people of Kimmirut, because they lost two people, and the other person, Pitseolak Killiktee, has never even been found. He was a very famous carver, and he specialized in bird carvings and upik carvings, and he was a very friendly person. They really supported the people of Kimmirut. The son was laid to the ground yesterday.

I commend all the search and rescue people in both communities. They work hard in what they do, and they support each other and try to keep going. But we feel for you while you're going through this hardship and have you in our minds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Member's Statement 646 – 6(2): Recreation Activities in Sanikiluaq

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, over the summer the recreation department at Sanikiluaq hamlet was busy with many activities. Sanikiluaq summer day camp was a huge success, with 53 kids, boys and girls registered for the whole summer from June 26 to August 16.

I would like to recognize the hard-working individuals who were the summer day camp organizers. The following names: Anna Oqaituq, Robin Emikotailak, Cindy Alariaq, Jenica Cookie, Minnie Kumarluk, and Sappa Cookie, the recreation coordinator. They also went to Iqaluit to attend Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut training, and six of the team went to receive certifications and got certified in Standard First Aid and CPR/AED level C.

Summer day camp was held over the summer at the Paatsaali High School gym from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Monday to Friday. Youth leaders prepared morning and afternoon snacks for all the kids who attended the program. The 53 young boys and girls participated in the summer day camp challenges, challenges like Inuit games, Nunavut Day participation, Spartan Race, and many more.

On behalf of the recreation department for the community, the community thanks the following donors: Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut, Kakivak Association,

Municipality of Sanikiluaq, Mituq Co-op, Northern Store, and the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, without the summer day camp program, it could have been a different summer for the 53 young boys and girls. It couldn't have also been done without the recreation department. For that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 647 – 6(2): Northern Canine Veterinarians (Gross)

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker, and good morning once again to Nunavummiut and those in Cambridge Bay. I know it's early in the morning over there, but I know we have people listening, and for that good morning to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Northern Canine Rescue Vet Team. Every year they host a vet clinic in our community, and they do fund-raising throughout the year to support this initiative, which is very much felt by all of our community who have pets. And we thank them for their service to our little furry loved ones.

This year, the 2024 Canine Rescue Vet Clinic was held August 3 to 5, and it was a great success. I would really like to thank all of the volunteers in the community who are a part of the Northern Canine Rescue and the team that comes up and volunteers, including Connie Varnhagen, Dr. Savannah Howse, Dr. Mary Power, and Kat Sharko, who have all come to our community and helped make this amazing time a success.

This year the three-day event was hosted and they were able to perform 45 surgeries and approximately 150 checkups and vaccinations, which really does go a long way to helping keep our dog population under control and healthy. I would also like to thank the Alberta Helping Animal Society, Canadian North, Ublu Inn, Inukshuk Enterprises, Qillaq Innovations, and the Municipality of Cambridge Bay for supporting the event.

Rewarding things is seeing our young ones in our communities who are aspiring to different levels. And this year I would like to acknowledge and say way to go to Gretchen Jancke, who is an aspiring vet, and I wish her all the best. I know she had a wonderful time volunteering. And keep it up, Gretchen, we look forward to you becoming a vet for our community or across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 4. Return to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Ms. Nakasuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone who is visiting in the House. Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society is here visiting us today. As my colleagues in the House know, I have declared October as Disability Employment Awareness Month across Nunavut. This important recognition engages, educates, and raises awareness about inclusive employment in Nunavut.

While celebrating the contributions with individuals with disabilities, the observance is an important step towards fostering employment equity, inclusive communities, and supporting individuals to realize their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, through our programs and services and our partnership with the strong advocates at the Disabilities Society, the Department of Family Services is committed to supporting and advancing the full participation of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming to the House:

Adebola Kolawole, Project Manager and Supervisor;

Jennifer Allooloo, Program Participant;

Margaret Ishulutak, Employment Specialist;

Lucy Luuku Markoosie, Project Administrator;

Lucy Manniapik, artist;

Isaac Mensah, Employment Specialist;

and our staff from Department of Family Services, Deputy Minister Jonathan Ellsworth, and Sandy Kownak, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 929 – 6(2): Nutrition North Canada Program

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the clerk for the heads up. I was buried in my phone just now.

My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I promised the minister yesterday that I would have questions that are specific to the recently announced external review of the federal Nutrition North Canada Program, and I always like to keep my promises.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I raised this issue during the spring session or the spring sitting, and at that time the minister confirmed that the Government of Nunavut shares my concern that this federal program is simply not achieving the basic objective of making healthy foods affordable to all Nunavummiut.

Earlier this month, the federal Minister of Northern Affairs announced that a ministerial special representative will be appointed in early 2025 to launch an external review of the program.

Mr. Speaker, it is vitally important that this special representative have a deep understanding of northern communities and the lived realities of our residents. Can the minister confirm the extent to which our government has been consulted on this appointment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this review, my colleague, Ms. Margaret Nakasuk, is going to be taking the lead in reviewing this issue. 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) If I understand your question correctly, What has the department or the government done, in terms of the Nutrition North program? I may have misunderstood the question. If she could verify. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Brewster, please re-ask the question to the minister. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Economic Development was related to the federal Minister of Northern Affairs' announcement earlier this month that a ministerial special representative will be appointed in early 2025 to launch an external review of the Nutrition North Canada program.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's vitally important that this special representative have a deep understanding of northern communities and the lived realities of our residents. And so what I'm asking is can the minister confirm the extent to which our government has been consulted on this particular appointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for rephrasing your question. (interpretation ends) I am aware of the review that is going to be done by the federal government on the Nutrition North program. I have not heard if there has been assigned department or a minister to overlook this, but the Department of Family Services has been working and advocating to the federal government about this program specifically, and I am aware of the supports that federal government does for the Hunter Support Program that they offer and also the Nutrition North program itself in terms of the program deliveries into the communities.

We have been advocating on this and I did meet with Minister Van Dal on the program itself on the issues that we have in terms of how it could be a bit more effective into the territory. Minister Van Dal has just recently visited Nunavut and did a speech at the poverty reduction roundtable that we just held, here in Iqaluit, this month.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister of Family Services, Minister's statement this morning about the Nunavut roundtable for poverty reduction gathering, congratulations on the success of that, by the way, and the importance of continuing that. We're nearly a decade into consultations with our community members that have real lived experience personally as well as professionally on reducing poverty in Nunavut.

The minister stated that we had conversations about cargo. During yesterday's question period, I touched on the issue of air cargo service in relation to the Competition Bureau's review of competition in the airline sector. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the air cargo arrangements that the two major food retailers in Nunavut have established in recent years have profoundly impacted the economics retail operations in the North, and, Mr. Speaker, I've spoken with many constituents who are simply not convinced that the

federal subsidies provided under the Nutrition North program are being fully used to reduce the cost of food.

And so I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Family Services will commit to formally requesting her federal counterpart to ensure that a comprehensive deep dive into the air cargo arrangements of the major food retailers is a key part of the upcoming external review of the Nutrition North Canada Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for a very excellent question. (interpretation ends) I certainly do agree with that question as we will continue to advocate for more supports. We do recognize the issues that we have in our communities, and the prices of food are outrageous in terms of different stores providing. And some communities don't have that choice, in terms of shopping at a different place.

Unfortunately, during the poverty reduction roundtable, some of the information that we did hear was not all positive, and that's something that we all need to hear. During the meeting, a Canadian North speaker did announce that on November 1 there will be an increase of 18 percent of shipping costs. Unfortunately, we do see that is going to impact our communities even more, and that's not something that we want to see or do.

But we will certainly continue advocating for more supports and a thorough review on the program itself, because we need to see some changes and effectiveness in our communities, because the costs are outrageous, and we recognize the poverty in our communities. So we will continue to advocate on this program to ensure that it actually fits into northern communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we did have a good discussion about the issue of competition in the airline sector, and given that we're pivoting to speak to the Minister of Family Services and the knowledge that there have been recent steps taken to impact public servants' abilities to afford to live in Nunavut with the wage increase that people probably woke up and happily saw on their pay cheques today.

I'll end today by asking the minister a clear question, and that is: From the government's perspective, what additional actions need to be taken to foster a more competitive economic environment in Nunavut, and specifically that pushes large retailers into lowering the cost of nutritious foods and essential goods? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I (interpretation ends) I keep going back to the poverty reduction roundtable that we just had, and we had speakers from Northwest Company as well as Arctic Cooperatives Limited, so they did come up and talk about the prices within the stores in Nunavut. And there was really good questions coming from the youth as well as community members that asked about the prices of food prices in our communities and the differences of one item in both stores. So that's one of the concerns that has been brought forward, and we do recognize that issue.

So in terms of how we can better look at the prices or effectiveness that is delivered by the stores, we will continue to work with the federal government as well as the stores to ensure that the prices do not effect even higher, because that is certainly a concern for all of us here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 930 – 6(2): Arctic Nursing Program

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, it is with great interest that I listen to the health staffing update from the Minister of Health minister's statement this morning. I would like to follow up with live questioning regarding the Arctic nursing program offered through the Nunavut Arctic College in partnership with Dalhousie University.

I would like to start off, Mr. Speaker, just with how many students are currently registered in that program on years one through four. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. (interpretation ends) For this current program, the Arctic nursing program itself, we have 19 enrolled students for the bachelor of science and Arctic nursing for year one through year four.

For the fall of 2024 intake, year one at this current time we have five students. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would strongly encourage more Nunavummiut to apply for this program. We want to have more homegrown health professionals in this territory.

Mr. Speaker, the minister's office and I had a number of back and forths earlier this year on the eligibility requirements for the Arctic nursing program. And I'll note, if I look at the Dalhousie University Arctic nursing program criteria, it says that you have to be 18 years or older, an academic grade 12 with 70 percent overall average, with credits in math, science and English, with minimum of 70 percent in those subject areas, and a Nunavut residence, and a number of different letters of reference and a number of different criteria.

Yet when I look on the Nunavut Arctic College's website, when I look at program admissions it says 17 years of age or older. But one of the really big discrepancies that the minister's office and I had a dialogue on was the academic requirements states that: Grade 12 diploma with at least 70 percent overall, including grade 12 math, English, or science. Can the minister confirm which admission is criteria is correct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

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

(interpretation ends) We have been having some issues while updating some of the information on the website, but in terms of the requirements to get into the bachelor of nursing program, Arctic health, the requirements are: Grade 12 diploma with 70 percent overall, including grade 12 math, English and science, or successful completion of pre-health science with 60 percent overall; or another fundamental program equivalency may be required, and request for transfer credits may be available.

When I look at the practical nursing program, that does outline some of the requirements in terms of the language arts, mathematics, and biology, and they do have clear outline of what is expected of their marks when they're applying. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary. Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I appreciate the minister reading the information that's currently on the website, nowhere in the Nunavut Arctic College's eligibility criteria it talks about the academic stream. The minister just mentioned the criteria for the practical nursing program. And the minister is correct; it's very clear: 60

percent, English 30-1, or 70 percent 30-2; math, 50 percent 30-1 or 60 percent 30-2; or at least 60 percent in biology 30.

The information that the minister just read out is just 70 percent overall, including a grade 10, 12 math, English, and science.

So the way I'm reading this and the way school counsellors are reading this and advising their students is 30-3 math is sufficient, which we know there's an academic requirement to go into the nursing program. Dalhousie lays it out very clearly. It says an overall average with credits in the academic science, English and math.

I would like to again get confirmation of what the criteria is for the Arctic nursing program at Nunavut Arctic College, and the minister has mentioned they are going to be updating the information. I would recommend that the minister, not just the nursing program, but go through other program eligibility requirements, to make sure they are current so that our school counsellors can advise our students properly on what academic requirements that they need to go into their career choice. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. (interpretation ends) In terms of the requirements that are stated, and did I already clarify what is required. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 931 – 6(2): Grays Bay Road and Port Project

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up today on the Grays Bay Road and Port project, which is an issue that I have raised in the Legislative Assembly on a number of occasions.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Impact Review Board recently issued its notice of screening for this project. The deadline for submissions was October 15, 2024. Can the minister confirm when the Government of Nunavut provided its submission? Will he commit to tabling a copy of the submission in the Legislative Assembly before the end of the current fall sitting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Thank you very much for the question for the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Whether we submitted or not, I'm going to have to get that information. Any submissions that go to the Nunavut Impact Review Board is publicly available on their website as to who has submitted, so I'll commit to see whether our departments have submitted on this particular project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that. As the minister is aware, the goal of this project is to construct an all-weather road in the Kitikmeot region that will connect mineral-rich areas with a deep water port. The current proponent of the project is the West Kitikmeot Resources Corporation.

During the Legislative Assembly sitting of March 9, 2024, the minister informed the House that he had provided a letter of support to the project proponent. Will the minister commit to tabling a copy of his letter of support to the Legislative Assembly before the end of the current fall sitting? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can definitely get that letter, make it available to the member. I really appreciate the support that I'm getting from this House in this project. In September of this year, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with West Kitikmeot Resources and also with the Canada Infrastructure Bank, being our witness to this. And I believe the member was fortunate to be here to witness that signing, so I'm really happy about that, and I will have that Memorandum of Understanding. I think that's the latest information that we have that I could share with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Quana*. Mr. Speaker, There has been discussion in the House about the importance of critical minerals. These are minerals that are essential to developing clean technology, such as electric vehicles. During the Legislative Assembly sitting of March 9, 2024, the minister indicated that the Grays Bay Road and Port is an important element of Canada's critical mineral strategy.

Can the minister provide an update today on what specific actions his department is currently taking to support the development of critical mineral projects in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I met with Minister Wilkinson regarding the critical minerals and have been advocating particularly this Grays Bay Port and Road as one of the critical infrastructures that Canada will need to invest in, and that opens the door for critical minerals.

And also, our Premier has written a letter to the Prime Minister indicating the importance of Grays Bay Port and Road, that it is very significant for this territory to un-tap the resources that we do have, here in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 932 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of water infrastructure in my constituency of Uqqummiut, or Clyde River.

(interpretation ends) As I noted, Mr. Speaker, in the spring sitting, the Government of Canada recently announced 2 million in funding for work to develop proposals for upgrading the drinking water treatment facilities in Clyde River, Igloolik, and Coral Harbour.

In June of this year, the Department of Community and Government Services issued a request for proposal for the development of the business case for new water treatment infrastructure in Clyde River. Can the minister confirm which company has been awarded the contract to undertake this important work? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my fellow member, for this. I'm glad that she welcomed us to her community for the water infrastructure in Clyde River, Coral Harbour, and Igloolik, the federal funding of 2 million. I am not aware currently. I can review which company has been awarded the contract.

I know for Clyde River, in the last week they started work in reviewing the facility and meeting with the hamlet council. I will provide more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the information. I have heard that it is moving forward, and I want to bring this issue up in the House and that the project needs to proceed in Clyde River and the plans in reviewing the water treatment infrastructure and the work this coming summer. You mentioned as well that the hamlet is informed and that the hamlet to be informed and aware of how it's proceeding.

Can the minister confirm to my office the work that is proceeding and the progress to date? I would like updates on this project to my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree with her question and the work in making a business case in the summer of 2025. This project will proceed further for the projects, and we will certainly keep her office updated, as well as the hamlet office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Killiktee.

Ms. Killiktee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that, and I would like to share information that you're working with the hamlet.

(interpretation ends) The request for proposals indicates that the final business case will be submitted, like you said, October of 2025, which is like a year from now. Can the minister outline what steps will take place after that to begin the process for the design and construction of a new water treatment facility for the community of Clyde River?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good question. The infrastructure projects that are moving forward and that we have initially to do a review and assessment and to come up with a plan and drawings and then to proceed with implementation. So we will require a funding proposal based on the reports, and I will be expecting this project to proceed. And also, it includes the three projects that are proceeding. We will have to seek funding for the projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 933 – 6(2): Community Coroners in Igloolik

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice and they concern the coroners in Igloolik, community coroners in Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this past summer proved to be a difficult one for many constituents. Igloolik lost three community members in just a few weeks. We are concerned for the families, and send our sincere condolences to those that have lost loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our community coroners for their hard work and dedication to the very challenging but important role.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on how many community coroners are currently working for this department, and if any are located in Igloolik.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our condolences as well to the families who lost their loved ones. It's very hard going through losing a loved one. People struggle, especially the coroners who have to deal with the dead. For Nunavut, right now we have them in categories. I'm trying to count the number. I may be mistaken, but I do know many communities don't have coroners. Igloolik doesn't have a coroner, I know that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree, it's often not convenient when you don't have a coroner, and it takes time for family to see the work done.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during our recent spring sitting, the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 46, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*.

Mr. Speaker, a number of those amendments came into effect on August 31, 2024. One of the amendments to the act include requiring the Office of the Chief Coroner to produce an annual record, and for it to be tabled in the House. Can the minister clearly indicate when he expects to table the most recent annual report of the Office of the Chief Coroner? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues. With their support, the act is now in place. It has not been a year yet since this was enacted, and within a year we will provide the annual reports. That is our plan. And the reports that are required are being compiled and the numbers required listed, and finally being rolled out. When it will be rolled out I have no answer, but I know we cannot do it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. I agree, when we have the numbers, it's usually easier to move forward.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the last public service announcement seeking to new community coroners was posted in February of 2023. Mr. Speaker, I support every reasonable effort to recruit and retain community coroners for each of our communities, including Igloolik. Will the minister commit to re-issuing a new public service announcement in hopes of recruiting more community coroners? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Mr. Speaker, I welcome to do another public service announcement. These are critical positions that we need in every community, and I thank the member for raising it, and I hope that there is interest in the communities. I would encourage people that are listening if they do want to become a coroner, please inquire to my department, and that way we'll make necessary ways to appoint coroners. I think we need more coroners in the communities, and definitely I encourage anybody that wants to become a coroner to contact our department and see how to become a coroner.

So I thank my member for raising this very important issue, and I hope that we do have more people signing up to become coroners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 934 – 6(2): Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions this morning are for the Minister of Environment. Mr. Speaker, it has now been over 16 months since the Nunavut Planning Commission submitted its recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan to the Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Since that time I have asked a number of questions in this House about the

impact that this plan will have on such important objectives as caribou habitat protection and critical mineral development.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide a substantive update today on the status of the review of the proposed Land Use Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member from Baker Lake, and to follow up on the question in regards to the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan. Mr. Speaker, currently the Government of Nunavut is still reviewing the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan to ensure that it aligns with its plan date, goals, and objectives. And at this time the Government of Nunavut has no position whether to approve or reject the plan at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I last raised this issue during the spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the minister indicated that the signatory parties had “submitted a list of potential errors in the plan to the Nunavut Planning Commission.”

Can the minister confirm today if these errors have now been addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, we are currently reviewing the plan. At this time the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, and the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share costs for a third-party facilitator for tri-party meeting and are working to finalize a contract with the facilitator. We are still working on the errata issues within the plan. We are consulting with other parties, for example, the Athabaska Denesuline Land Corporation and Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene. Sorry if I butchered the names of those land claims organizations from our neighbouring territory.

But at this time we do have interdepartmental working group within each department in the Government of Nunavut which are reviewing the concerns and issues within each department. Those are still in the review stage, where we will compile every concern and issue, and that will eventually bring us to whether to again reject or approve the plan based on our review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do hope the review will be sped up a bit. This government is running out of time. It will be only a year left before it is dissolved. It would be nice to deal with it during this government.

Mr. Speaker, I have previously noted that serious concerns have been raised that the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan in its current form will result in significant quantities of critical mineral deposits being stranded unavailable for development. Both the premier and the minister responsible for mines have gone on record in supporting this vital sector of the green economy.

My colleague from Kugluktuk just raised this issue a few minutes ago, where there are critical minerals that are in the west I would like to be mined, so its quite important.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the same question I asked back in May: What assurances can be provided to me today that the Government of Nunavut will not approve the Land Use Plan until this issue has been resolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for following up with the line of questions from the last sitting. Mr. Speaker, I did have my time to meet with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated president during the winter season. Also, just this month, October 10, I briefly had a conversation with Minister Van Dal on the issue of the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan. And at that time the Government of Canada is also doing their part by reviewing the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

And at this time it's hard to justify whether the plan will be approved or rejected just based on the recent announcement of Minister Van Dal's seeking not to re-elect. But I'm sure whoever will replace him will be in a position to have the plan either rejected or approved.

And also the upcoming elections for the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, I don't foresee any issues, but the next representative will have the power to review the plan with his stakeholders.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I cannot assure the member whether the Government of Nunavut will have a say to reject or approve the plan. As the Government of Nunavut, we want the best plan for the Nunavut Land Use Plan, because the end of the day it is going to be a living document. It is going to be a binding document. We're working to see how the plan will fit to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 935 – 6(2): Income Support Clients

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member's statement earlier today, the topic of my questions are the recruitment and retention of income support clients into the work force, as I believe that this is the most direct means of poverty reduction in Nunavut.

As I also mentioned, the solution will require a double-edged sword. We require incentives to income support clients to get out of the income support trap or the welfare wall. We also need incentives available to our employers targeted directly at employing income support clients.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Family Services has made funding available through wage subsidies for employers to hire local Inuit, such as a private sector GN-funded summer student program as well as a GN-funded private sector training access program.

Again, the Department of Family Services has not made much information available, whether it be through the business plans, the main estimates, annual reports or the website specifically on these very important programs.

So I would like to ask: Can the minister please update the House on the success and utilization of these employer-based wage subsidy programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

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

(interpretation ends) Under the targeted labour market programs that the department offers, there are different programs that outline what supports non-profit organizations, or Inuit organizations, municipal hamlets. They can all supply for support to ensure that they are able to hire people with disabilities or hard-to-fill positions in other areas. We have quite a number of programs that run under there.

Annually, I'll give you 2023-2024. We are spending about \$6 million to ensure that we are hiring people in this field. And as I stated, these are supports for employers across the territory. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal funded Training Access Program which the Department of Family Services administers has excellent purpose and intent and much potential for poverty reduction in Nunavut. However, it appears that the program may be poorly promoted and underutilized.

Until very recently I was unfamiliar with this program, as are many of our employees, I'm quite sure. So I can only assume that the utilization is quite low.

So again I would like to ask the minister for to update the House on the specific utilization of this Training Access Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for asking those questions. (interpretation ends) When I had responded in terms of the labour market program itself, that was more specifically to organizations that had applied for subsidies. In terms of other programs that I didn't mention, there is a wage subsidy program through the career development division that non-profit organizations, and hamlets, housing organizations could apply to help cover wage costs when they are hiring new employees, and also that could include apprentices getting into the field with any trade with any organization or non-profit organization.

We have grants to Nunavut employers. These are usually promoted through the career development division, and that's through the career development officers. And also they have continued yearly updates to organizations in the communities to promote and encourage employers to apply to these different programs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for the response. It's great that \$6 million was made available to non-GN organizations to hire Inuit, or Nunavummiut through the wage subsidy program.

Again I would like to reiterate that the Department of Family Services does have a lot of career development and poverty reduction programs, but nowhere can I find utilization. Nowhere is it identified that the Department of Family Services funded the wage subsidy which saw this many Inuit hired, which saw this many Inuit diverted from income support, saw this many 18-year-olds joining the work force for the first time and being diverted from income support before they even start.

Mr. Speaker, I am starting to believe that the Government of Nunavut must do more to create and foster conditions to help create private sector employment. Mr. Speaker, again I can only assume that these programs are poorly utilized, and it is likely due to the difficult requirements to access these generous wage subsidies, and I strongly believe that this is associated to the federal funding that is tied to these programs.

And again, I strongly believe that the Government of Nunavut must create a new funding program specifically designed for the wage subsidies directly for employers that hire income support clients, and not just a targeted program; a program that is more accessible, streamlined, and easier to access for our entrepreneurs, but still meets the reporting requirements for expenditure of public funds.

So again, I would like to ask the minister to consider creating such a new program in the Department of Family Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for asking those questions. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, the \$6 million that I just stated under the targeted labour market program, that is for non-profit organizations. For the wage subsidy program itself, we have spent over 523,000 to help employers with hiring new employees within their businesses.

In terms of the career development programs that I stated a bit about, I just want to ensure that career development officers do meet with income assistance clients to help them write resumes, to help them apply for programs within community learning centres, to apply for college programs in the central places in the territory.

And we do target income assistance clients throughout Nunavut. We do need to do more of it. As I have stated, our career development officers are located here in Iqaluit, in Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, and Kugluktuk, and we do need to spread out more into the communities, but they do travel into the communities to help promote these programs and they do meet with income assistance clients. And we will continue to target those groups. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 936 – 6(2): Clean Energy Projects in the Kivalliq

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation. As the minister will recall, the federal Minister of Northern Affairs announced funding in July of this year for three clean energy project in

government number of Kivalliq communities, including Naujaat. The Ikayuut project in Naujaat involves “the construction of a 1.0+ megawatt solar and battery energy storage facility that will supply 30 percent of the community's electricity demand with locally produced renewable energy.”

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the municipality council of Naujaat and the Kivalliq Inuit Association for their hard work in developing this project. Can the minister describe how the Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with Kivalliq Alternative Energy in the Naujaat project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleague for asking questions about that. It was really good news to hear about Naujaat, about the development that is happening in Naujaat. It was great to hear the progression of it. I regret that I was not able to go to that community, because there was a fire that I had to deal with. I was planning to go to Naujaat, and I still am.

The program that we follow, independent energy producing program, it's where private businesses, along with Kivalliq Alternative Energy, we are working with them about different projects that need to be approved and studied. But we are working with that organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister.

(interpretation ends) The Kivalliq Alternative Energy Partnership is also working to develop a solar and energy storage project in Coral Harbour that will aim to provide 30 percent of the community's electricity with locally produced clean energy. Can the minister describe how Qulliq Energy Corporation is working with Kivalliq Alternative on Coral Harbour project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We're working closely with the proponent, with Kivalliq Alternative Energy with regards to the Coral Harbour proposal or project that they are working on. So there's a connection impact assessment that is a key part of the approval process that needs to be completed.

So when we look at the Naujaat project, the connection impact assessment has been completed, so the next step for the Naujaat project is the energy purchase agreement.

For the Coral Harbour project, the connection impact assessment has been paused upon request of the proponent. That's the latest information I have on that project.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is regretful to hear that there was a pause. I would really like that to go ahead.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, he recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nukik Corporation to develop green energy projects in the Kivalliq region. I recognize that Naujaat and Coral Harbour are not part of the proposed Kivalliq Hydro Fibre Link project at this time. One of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding is to develop a new Kivalliq Region Energy Plan.

Can the minister commit to ensure that both Naujaat and Coral Harbour are included as part of the work to develop a new Kivalliq Regional Energy Plan? 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 thank the member for the question. My understanding is that the work towards the Kivalliq Regional Energy Plan would include all communities. And I thank the member for raising this important topic.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is keenly looking for ways to support development of renewable energy in Nunavut, whether it's in Naujaat, whether it's in Coral Harbour or elsewhere. We want to find ways to reduce our carbon footprint as a territory.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 937 – 6(2): Medical Transient Centre

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, I have raised a need for medical boarding home in Rankin Inlet on a number of occasions. In the past, the minister had suggested that a feasibility study was being looked at.

Can the minister provide an update, whether he raised this issue with Indigenous Services Canada during the discussion relating to medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health, Minister Main.

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

(interpretation ends) In terms of the potential for a boarding home in Rankin Inlet, I can confirm that it has been raised at various points in the past at the staff level.

In terms of the negotiations on the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, the contribution agreement that we were seeking and that we managed to secure with Indigenous Services Canada, that was focused on the medical travel costs associated with the program. It wasn't necessarily focused on boarding homes.

There is ongoing work regarding boarding homes in Yellowknife and Ottawa, and those discussions are ongoing with Indigenous Services Canada. As the member knows, Indigenous Services Canada pays operating costs of the boarding homes, or pays for the benefit that goes to Nunavut Inuit. The Department of Health is involved in administering that, but ultimately it's Indigenous Services Canada that funds the boarding homes, whether they are in territory or outside. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the numbers of medical clients travelling through Rankin Inlet may not seem to justify the establishment of a large boarding home; however, the numbers don't tell the whole story. It can be very stressful to one, or two, or five individuals who are left stranded when their flights are cancelled or delayed, or there are no hotel rooms available. Having a designated place to go to in such a situation would make a huge difference in their medical travel experience.

Can the minister clarify what significant steps and resources would be required to establish a small medical transient centre in the community of Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is precisely those types of questions that we are seeking to have answered, in terms of what are the particulars around this medical travel volumes through Rankin Inlet, what kind of services are available, what kind of services would be beneficial.

The feasibility study that the member mentioned, I'm happy to report that it's ongoing, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing, or what our contractor is doing is they're looking at the past three years of travel volumes and then looking ahead to the future, in terms of trying to project into the future what the medical travel volumes are going to look at.

We're also giving consideration to what we're calling passthrough travellers, who are not necessarily going to Rankin Inlet, but are passing through, maybe on their way to Winnipeg or to Iqaluit.

So those are things that are being considered. The feasibility study is not looking at capital requirements, it's looking strictly at the program side of things in terms of putting together a case that we can bring to Indigenous Services Canada to look for their support on this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that many of my colleague MLAs and mayors support the concept of a medical transient centre in Rankin Inlet. A potential building has been identified, the old children's group home. And it's my understanding that it is already a Department of Health asset. Will the minister commit to considering establishment of a Kivalliq medical transient centre in the community of Rankin Inlet before the end of the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to continuing the work that's started, in terms of the feasibility study, and as I mentioned, establishing a boarding home anywhere, whether it's in Rankin Inlet, whether it's in Cambridge Bay, no matter where it is, it needs to be done with the support and the approval of Indigenous Services Canada, because we don't have the budget to fund the boarding homes. It doesn't sit with the Government of Nunavut. I don't think it would be appropriate for us to start funding the boarding homes. That's the federal government's responsibility through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

In terms of the infrastructure piece, I believe the building that the member brought forward, that is being renovated. It is an asset of Health, and it's going to be put into use as mental health and addictions programming space, which is something that is in high demand in Rankin Inlet. I've had meetings with the municipality regarding the need for mental health and addiction supports in the community, so we're excited to be bringing that asset back on line and offering services to community members.

And so I do appreciate the member's interest in this area, and that feasibility study is ongoing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 938 – 6(2): Kugaaruk Power Plant

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of Kugaaruk's new power plant, which is a priority for the community that I represent in the House.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in February of this year, during our winter sitting, the minister indicated that the Qulliq Energy Corporation would not be proceeding at this time with the replacement of the community's power plant, which is almost 50 years old.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in May of this year during our spring sitting, the minister indicated that the corporation was seeking additional resources with which to construct a new power plant.

Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, the Qulliq Energy Corporation submitted a number of items to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, which is a good sign of progress. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide a clear update today on the status of the corporation's work to obtain additional federal funding that will enable the replacement of the power plant to go ahead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) and I thank the member for raising this question. It's a huge need across the territory. Yesterday we had one of our colleagues from Iqaluit asking questions around power outages and I, you know, forgot to mention that one of the key issues around power outages in Nunavut is the age of our infrastructure. It's our power plants, it's also our transmission infrastructure.

So we are starting to lobby our federal partners for the next version of the Arctic Energy Fund. As members might know, Arctic Energy Fund is \$175 million of federal funding that is 75 percent covered by the federal government, and the remaining \$58 million is covered by Qulliq Energy Corporation. So the fund all together is \$233 million.

When we look at the Kugaaruk's power plant, we do need additional support if we're going to move forward on that project, as well as others badly needing replacement

across Nunavut. You know, we're talking about Chesterfield Inlet, we're talking about Sanirajak, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Resolute Bay. So there's a long list of projects that we want to move forward on, and securing additional federal funds is going to be part of that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the Qulliq Energy Corporation recently issued requests for the proposals for the design and construction of new power plants in the communities of Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, and Igloolik. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that the Qulliq Energy Corporation had been directed to enter into contract negotiations with the Kitikmeot corporation for the construction of Kugluktuk's new power plant.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what procurement process will be used to design and construct Kugaaruk's new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Interpretation ends) The default for government procurement and for Qulliq Energy Corporation is through the public tendering process. In terms of the work in Kugluktuk, we've discussed it here in the House and discussed it with the member from Kugluktuk. It was a case of trying a new approach, after repeated failed public tenders. And so that approach continues to show promise, and the work is ongoing. So I can't predict into the future in terms of what will happen for Kugaaruk, but I can state the default approach is the public tendered process. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, the municipal council of Kugaaruk passed a formal motion in the year 2021 concerning the location of proposed new power plant. Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm if the present municipal council is fully in agreement with the proposed location of the new power plant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will have to check, ,or refer back, consult with my staff on that level of detail. I don't have the exact update in terms of the current council.

But the member raises an important point in terms the municipalities are key partners for Qulliq Energy Corporation, and we work very closely with them.

When we're looking at things like planning around new power plants, we ask our partners to recognize that we don't have unlimited capital funds and that decisions around choices for where you're going to place a new piece of infrastructure, those can have major affects on the budget of a project. And when you see increasing budgets within projects, then you start getting concerned around potential delays.

So we do value the input of municipalities very highly, and we will continue working with hamlet of Kugaaruk elected leadership. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 939 – 6(2): Medical Travel Policy

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning, people of Amittuq. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I brought this up earlier about patients that are being transported to another location for medical purposes. The minister indicated that there were going to be some changes in the transportation portion of patients, medical transportation. I'm talking about the medical travel policy. Have there been any changes to the policy that I am referring to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of the medical travel policy, we have the ongoing consultations, the survey that I mentioned yesterday in the House, where we are looking for input from Nunavummiut. So in terms of changes to that policy, there's nothing to report yet.

But in terms of ground transportation, I know the member has been advocating for increased support for his constituents, and I understand that. We have been working with Indigenous Services Canada in lobbying for more supports for medical travellers under non-insured health benefits. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you for the response. It's a major issue. The minister stated before that for Arctic Bay, Coral Harbour health centre for medical travel. Can you include Amittuq on improving? Currently it's starting to get cold. There's no

transportation to the airport, and they do not make their medical appointments. Can you review how we can proceed on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for continuing to raise this. And it's, you know, by questions in the House and discussions that we have with members that we're able to make changes. And so effective June 1, 2023, non-insured health benefits now covers ground transportation in all communities for individuals on approved medical travel.

So non-insured health benefits will reimburse taxi fares from client's home to the local airport at the established local rate within the community. So this is a welcome change. It means all communities are getting support, in terms of getting to and from the airport.

In terms of implementing this change, we're still working through how that can be implemented at the community level. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary. Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you for the minister for his response. In Igloolik and Sanirajak, non-insured health benefits does not match the requirements. We don't have taxi services; that's part of the problem, and perhaps the health centre's vehicle can be used for local ground transportation to and from the airport, due to the lack of taxi services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Minister Main.

Hon. John Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Currently the use of health vehicles for transporting medical travellers to and from the airport is limited to emergent situations. And the member mentioned insurance. You know, that is also part of our, the rules that we're operating under. In terms of the volume of travellers that are going to and from the airport, we really see this as a service that could be and should be supported by the private sector.

And, you know, I'm sad to hear that there are no taxis in the member's two communities, but I'm hopeful that this change from Indigenous Services Canada will make operating a taxi more profitable in many communities, and it will make it more feasible. So still working on the implementation of this policy change, as I mentioned. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members be aware time allotted for question period is now over. Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request an extension of question period.

Speaker: Members seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays.

Some Members: Nay.

Speaker: There is a nay. Before we go to the next item, we will take a ten minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:02 and resumed at 11:21*

Speaker: Welcome back, everyone. 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 Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Family Services, Ms. Nakashuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 284 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Kugaaruk Concerning Weather Observation Operations at the Kugaaruk Airport (Nakashuk)

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Government of Nunavut's response to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts of the review of the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Tabled Document 285 – 6(2): Correspondence from the Municipality of Kugaaruk Concerning Weather Observation Operations at the Kugaaruk Airport (Quqqiaq)

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of correspondence from the Municipality of Kugaaruk concerning the issue of weather observation operations at the Kugaaruk airport.

Mr. Speaker, the municipality has raised a number of concerns regarding this important issue, and I will have detailed questions for the appropriate minister on this subject next week.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 286 – 6(2): Resolutions from October 2024 Kivalliq Mayors Meeting (Sammurtok)

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of resolutions made by Kivalliq mayors and the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq during their recent general meeting on October 10, 2024. I was very pleased to attend this meeting which was hosted by Chesterfield Inlet but held in Rankin Inlet. I encourage all members to read this document with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 50 – Fuel Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Hon. Member from Quttiktuq that Bill 50, *Fuel Tax Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Bill 51 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – First Reading

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South that Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act – First Reading

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act, No. 3, 2023-2024 – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024* be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Hon. Minister for Quttiktuq that Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 55 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025 – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025* be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 56 – Write-Off of Assets Act, 2023-2024 – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 56, *Write-Off of Assets Act, 2023-2024*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – First Reading

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of EIA, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

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

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 59, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Bill 64 – Post-Secondary Student Support Act – First Reading

Hon. Pamela Gross: *Quana*, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, that Bill 64, *Post-Secondary Student Support Act* be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Bill 65 —An Act to amend Income Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq that Bill 65, *An Act to Amend Income Tax Act*, be now read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024 - Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operating and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 53 is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 - Second Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the capital expenditures of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 54 is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Second reading of bills, Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriations (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses for the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 55 is immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Hickes, Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, that the House adjourns for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order and not subject to debate. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 23, *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

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

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 50
 - Bill 51
 - Bill 52
 - Bill 56
 - Bill 58
 - Bill 59
 - Bill 64
 - Bill 65
19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters
20. Orders of the Day. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 28 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:36*

